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THE ONLINE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

www.kentnews.co.uk

Issue no 217

Family to bid final farewell to tragic hero Carl

By James Benjamin
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HUNDREDS of people are set to attend the funeral of tragic former Royal Marine Carl Davies next week after his body was finally returned to the UK.

Mr Davies, aged 33, of Harrier Drive, Sittingbourne, was also a former school teacher at the Isle of Sheppey Academy and Sittinbourne Community College.

He died after an incident on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean on November 9.

While initial reports said he fell to his death in an accident, it now appears he was brutally attacked and murdered.

Following a second post mortem, a murder investigation

was launched, and last week his body was finally returned to the UK.

Mr Davies had been working as a security guard on a ship in the area in the weeks leading up to his death. He had last been seen drinking with friends in a nearby bar. He will now be laid to rest at the Garden of England Crematorium in Bobbing, near Sittingbourne, on Tuesday, December 13 at 3pm.

The ceremony will be an open funeral with his family inviting all of those who would like to pay their respect to attend.

A page on internet social networking site Facebook, entitled Justice for Carl Davies, has already attracted around 8,500 followers.



Winning teams take a bow at awards night

YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE CELEBRATED – SEE STORY RIGHT

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SPORTS

Sports heroes are rewarded

SOME 150 people attended the 2011 Active Swale Sports Awards on Friday at the Abbey School in Faversham. Among the prize winners in the team of the year category were Sheppey Rugby Club (pictured left) who picked up their prize from MP Gordon Henderson and the Mayor of Swale.

TOURISM

Visitor centre commended

THE Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre picked up a highly commended at a top tourism awards ceremony. The Beautiful South Awards saw the Faversham venue receive a highly commended in the Flavour of the South East category. The ceremony took place in Surrey.

CHARITY

X Factor hits the right note

BOBBING-based children's charity Demelza is raising a glass to the finalists on ITV1 talent show the X Factor as its single Wishing on a Star topped the charts. Proceeds from the sale go to Together for Short Lives, which in turn will assist the likes of Demelza.

FUNDING

Cinema projects the right image as lottery grant awarded

MP Gordon Henderson has called on the people of Sheppey to make sure they use their local cinema after it scooped a £9,100 grant for improvements from the Big Lottery Fund.

The Blue Town Heritage Centre was presented with the cash in order for it to widen its appeal to the local population, by staging newer films.

It comes after the MP encouraged lo-

cal community and voluntary groups in Sittingbourne and Sheppey to apply for grant funding through the scheme.

The Heritage Centre is home to a cinema which holds up to 100 people and regularly puts on films for the community and local groups.

The MP said: "The cinema is a great example of what can be achieved with community spirit and commitment.

"Islanders often moan that there isn't enough to do on the island so I'm delighted that we will now have an improved cinema and it is up to us all to help make it a success by using it regularly."

Jenny Hurkett, founder and director of the Blue Town Heritage Centre, said: "We are another step closer to realising our ambitions to become the

heritage and cultural hub for the Isle of Sheppey.

"We are the only cinema on Sheppey and this funding will enable us to promote and show films that are on general release so that islanders can have a cinema experience that is accessible and affordable in surroundings that promote and preserve the island's heritage." See www.bluetownheritagecentre.com.

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PANTOMIME

Check out the Hook while Ice does panto

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IT MAY have been almost two decades since Vanilla Ice 'rocked the mic like a vandal', but the Ice Ice Baby star is back with a vengeance – and he's bringing a Hollywood star with him.

Not content with his eight-week stint earlier this year on ITV's *Dancing on Ice*, the 90s American rap star has returned to Britain on another of what he calls his "great adventures".

While it could be seen as an attempt to further revive his UK career, the enthusiasm and excitement he exudes over his new role as Captain Hook in Chatham's Central Theatre production of *Peter Pan* shows there's no denying he's itching to get out on stage.

Taking time out from his first day of rehearsals, Ice – real name Robert Van Winkle – spoke to us about the upcoming Christmas pantomime, his successful American TV career with DIY reality show *The Vanilla Ice Project* and his ongoing music career.

He also revealed the name of the Hollywood star who has promised to fly across the pond to see him perform as Hook.

"I'd never even heard of a pantomime before. I thought 'what the heck is this?' but it's so much fun," he said.

"I don't want to change the character of Captain Hook too much, but with panto you can do



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

STOP, COLLABORATE AND LISTEN: Vanilla Ice is back with a brand new invention of himself

that a little bit. I'm sure there's going to be some rapping in there and I'll be putting my own spin on the character. It's great that I can interact with the audience, too.

"I'll be there for the kids but there may be some parents who come along who remember the Ice Ice Baby time. I'm hope the UK starts tuning back into what Vanilla Ice is doing and that new fans come and see the show.

"I love it here in England. It's something about the people. They're more witty and have a laugh at things."

Ice – who recently finished filming the upcoming comedy *I Hate You, Dad*, with Adam Sandler – said he would be spending the Christmas period over here with his family.

"I'm going to fly my children over to the see the panto," he said.

"Adam Sandler said he would be coming over to see it too. He's a really down to earth person. He's a real champion.

"Jedward also said they were going to come and see the show."

Asked what he thought of the Irish twins' ver-

sion of his hit record *Ice Ice Baby* on *X Factor*, Ice said: "Somebody phoned me and told me about these two doing the song.

"I didn't even know what *X Factor* was at the time but I watched it and saw these kids doing Ice Ice Baby. I think they're awesome. They have so much energy."

Ice, who has just released his album *WTF* (Wisdom, Tenacity and Focus), admitted he had a jam-packed schedule over the next few months, even having to fly back to America between Peter Pan rehearsals to squeeze in a charity event called *Toys for Tots*.

Ice will be playing Captain Hook alongside CBeebies star Katy Ashworth as Peter Pan at The Central Theatre from December 8-31.

■ See www.yourmedway.co.uk for all the latest news and sport headlines.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Port terminal approved

THE Government has given the go-ahead to plans to build a second ferry terminal at Dover's port. The £400 million Terminal 2 will not be built until "market conditions require its construction" and would double the capacity of the port.

Port of Dover chief executive Bob Goldfield, said: "This is a great day for the port and its long-term future, for our local community and for the long-term resilience of the UK economy."

➔ Fined for sewage spill

SOUTHERN Water has been fined £10,000 after admitting allowing sewage to leak into a tributary of the River Rother from its treatment works in Tenterden. It also has to pay £7,295 investigation costs and £45,000 to the Environment Agency for the clean-up bill.

Samples taken after the incident on April 1 showed the effluent being discharged from the treatment works was nearly eight times the fatal strength for fish.

➔ Festival licence move

ORGANISERS of Lounge on the Farm have surrendered their existing licence to stage the three-day music festival and will apply to Canterbury City Council a new one for the 2012 event. The move comes after police called for a review into the festival after a rise in complaints this year, which coincided with the near sell-out festival increasing its capacity to 10,000. The festival takes place at Merton Farm in Canterbury and has quickly established itself as one of the leading niche festivals in an already crowded summer marketplace.

AUTUMN STATEMENT

Osborne's words are welcomed, but now businesses want action

THIS week's Autumn Statement from Chancellor George Osborne was broadly welcomed by Kent's businesses – but they are demanding action to back up his words.

The Kent branch of the Federation of Small Businesses says many of its concerns were addressed, but some other experts say they find it hard to see beyond gloomy immediate prospects.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The key now is for the Government to be consistent, and set to the task of translating these policy intentions into actions on the ground."

Mr Osborne has warned the UK faces two more years of cuts, and austerity measures could be in place for a total of six years. A total of £8 billion is due to be cut from public spending in 2015-16 and a further £7bn in 2016-17. The figures for economic growth



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

CHANGE: Businesses hope George Osborne's statement will be followed up with action

have also been downgraded.

But one of the keys to any recovery is making it easier for small businesses to obtain credit and the Chancellor received praise in this area.

Martin Varley, partner in the corporate and commercial team at Tunbridge Wells law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore said: "Commercial banks cannot or will not provide much-needed trade finance or support for capital projects.

"The National Loan Guarantee Scheme's support for

£20bn of low-rate bank lending over the next two years is a drop in the ocean. I would like to see nearer £200bn made available to guarantee loans.

"The outcome of the Chancellor's three methods of credit easing will add inflationary pressures on wages. However, stimulating the economy is essential to avoid a catastrophic fall off in demand."

And the statement heralds another year of difficult financial times, according to Sidcup-based chartered accountants and corporate finance experts McBrides Accountants LLP.

Managing partner Nick Paterno said: "There were a few crumbs of comfort in there – but not very many and the ones that there are will be hard to swallow in amongst the current plateful of doom and gloom."

■ For more Kent business reaction to the Chancellor's statement, see p27.



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INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Strike shows 'strength of feeling' over change to public sector pension

By Marijke Cox

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THOUSANDS of public sector workers joined picket lines and rallies across Kent on Wednesday in a stand against the Government's pension reforms.

But while union members hailed the industrial action a success, Prime Minister David Cameron described it as a "damp squib" despite it being the biggest strike seen in decades.

Some of Kent's MPs also criticised the industrial action, including Tory MP for South Thanet Laura Sandys who called it "badly timed".

Teachers, border staff, council workers and NHS staff such as porters, were among those to stage a walkout.

The largest march in Kent took place in Maidstone with more than 500 workers from unions including Unison and teacher union NASUWT taking part. Other rallies were staged in Canterbury, Dover and Sittingbourne.

Picket lines were also held outside council offices including Shepway and Dover, at the Port of Dover, and at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. And more than 300 schools were forced to close or partially close in Kent and Medway due to teacher walkouts.

Speaking at a picket line in Ashford, Zoe Van Dyke, regional organiser for Unison, said: "This is an important battle for us. Pensions are important for people who have given years of public service. Part of their package, which is not massively generous, is that they get a pension



which they contribute to as well. To have the ground pulled from under their feet as they approach retirement makes them angry."

Shepway Unison committee chairman Lee Jones said the strike showed the Coalition the "strength of feeling" over the pension changes.

Kent County Council cabinet member for business strategy, performance and health reform Cllr Roger Gough, said it was "business as usual" for the vast majority of the authority's services.

"Many of Kent's 592 schools remained open, with 127 reported as fully closed and 103 partially closed," he said.

"Out of the county's 99 libraries, two closed because of the strike. So far, we have been notified that 325 of 13,000 non-school staff participated in the day of action."

KCC said it was waiting for more figures to come in before it could confirm the final total.

Cllr Gough added: "Our priority during any action of this nature, indeed at all times, is to



UNITE: Kent saw thousands join the strike action

maintain our services to the people in Kent.

"I am pleased there has been a sensible approach and that we have been able to continue to provide a good level of service to people living and working in the county."

Medway Council said 41 schools closed completely and 38 partially, and five libraries had to shut for the day.

A spokeswoman added: "All essential children and adult services continued to function, as did sheltered housing."

Health chiefs at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust said the majority of services ran on Wednesday and key facilities were protected, including accident and emergency, critical care, and emergency surgery.

Shopping centre Bluewater reported a 20 per cent rise in footfall which was partly attributed to the strike action.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Conserve water plea

THAMES Water and South East Water customers are being asked to conserve supplies after below-average rainfall for 15 of the past 19 months.

The companies, which supply Kent, said the region needs about 80 per cent of the usual winter rainfall to avoid drought measures next year.

And the Environment Agency has warned there could be a drought next summer, and water companies should start preparing now.

➔ 'Don't suffer in silence'

IN the wake of the death of Wales football manager Gary Speed, the county's health chiefs have said "no-one needs to be alone". Men aged 30-60 are the most likely to kill themselves. In 2010, out of 115 suicides in Kent and Medway, 49 were men in that age group. Support includes the free Mental Health Matters helpline offers confidential emotional support and advice, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for people in Kent and Medway, on 0800 107 0160.

➔ Star Andre plans ahead

TICKETS to see singer Peter Andre on stage at Margate's Winter Gardens have just gone on sale at £28.50 – but you'll have to wait nearly a year before seeing him in action.

The show by the reality TV star doesn't take place until November 19, 2012, though the former husband of model Katie Price is promising to perform the hits Mysterious Girl and Behind Closed Doors, plus new material.

FOOD

Kent Crisps get bigger bags after consumers just can't get enough

THE county's latest foodie treat, Kent Crisps, has proved such a success it is to be sold in bigger bags for sharing.

The tasty snacks produced by Quex Foods have just been launched in new 150g bags to join the 40g bags, which have sold more than 300,000 packets since March.

Available from selected Waitrose, pubs, farm shops, delis, and fine food specialists, the hand-cooked crisps are made from locally-grown potatoes.

Kent Crisps reflect the tastes of the Garden of England with its flavours of Oyster and Vinegar, Ashmore Cheese and Onion, Sea Salt and Biddenden Cider Vinegar, and Sea Salt.

Quex Foods, based in Birchington, says it only uses natural flavours and colours and produces Kent Crisps using sustainable methods – an important factor for the Quex Park Estate's conservation aims.

The company's managing



SNACK ATTACK: Kent Crisps

director Anthony Curwen said: "It seems crisps lovers can't get enough of them and we have had constant requests for the bigger bags. We've invested in the new 150g sharing packets ahead of schedule due to overwhelming demand."

The Quex Park Estate is a 250-acre country park, with a 18th century Regency house, and the world-renowned Powell-Cotton Museum, plus other visitor attractions. It has won awards for conservation

and is a haven for wildlife.

Quex Foods also makes a range of local produce, including extra virgin rapeseed oil and extra virgin sunflower oil – both grown and pressed on its farm.

Since the launch of Kent Crisps earlier this year, TV Masterchef judge John Torode has described them as "delicious", and the snack also received rave reviews across the Channel after exhibiting at the French Arras Food and Drink expo.

Waitrose has selected Kent Crisps as a locally sourced product, and is stocking them at selected stores across the county.

They were also included in the opening celebrations of the supermarket's new Canterbury store.

And British soldiers serving in Afghanistan will get to try them when a supply of Kent Crisps is sent out for Christmas, through the charity Support Our Soldiers.



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Children under 3 eat for free

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Saturday 31st December

£50.00 per adult & £25.00 per child under 16

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Sunday 1st January

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CHRISTMAS

Enjoy some seasonal cheer with a visit to the Pantiles festive market

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HISTORIC shopping parade the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells is lining up a host of special events this Christmas to bring the festive spirit to the town.

The Association of Pantiles Traders will be hosting Christmas markets on December 3 between 10am and 6pm and December 4 between 10-4pm, and on the same times over the weekend of December 17-18.

It is also laying on a free shuttle bus from the Calverley Grounds ice rink to the Pantiles and back again during the market weekends.

Visitors to the markets will find a host of stalls and entertainment. On Saturday, between 11am-noon In Choir will be performing on the bandstand, and on Sunday, between noon and 3pm, there will be



WARMING: Christmas market

Mumming with the Hartley Morris Men. On Saturday, December 17, between noon and 2pm the Orpheus Male Voice Choir will also perform.

Meanwhile, younger visitors to the Pantiles during the Christmas market weekends will be able to put in a good word direct with Father Christmas, who will be in his grotto at the Corn Exchange from 10am to 4pm.

Children can also be kept amused on Sundays, December 4 and 18, at the Corn Exchange

between 10.30am and 2.30pm with storytelling sessions. It costs £3.50 per child and is suitable for children aged three and upwards. All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the session.

Kids and parents are invited to enjoy a Christmas story written by local children's author, Tony Streeter, about the mice of St Mary's of Speldhurst.

The author will be reading one of the tales himself in the afternoon sessions.

And as the big day approaches, if you still find yourself stuck for ideas, it is hosting a late-night shopping event on Thursday, December 22, with entertainment lined up on the bandstand and participating shops will be offering drinks and festive nibbles.

■ See the website www.pantilestraders.co.uk for details of all events.

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FOOD AND DRINK

It's time to cast your vote to decide who offers the finest Taste of Kent

THROUGHOUT December thousands of consumers will help bring food and drink businesses across the county one step closer to winning a prestigious Taste of Kent Award 2012.

The popularity of the Taste of Kent Awards, supported by Archant KOS Media, continues to surge as thousands of consumers join Produced in Kent's search to find, nominate, and reward Kent's food and drink heroes.

So far 7,329 votes have been made at www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk, a 38 per cent increase on the same time last year ahead of the public online voting deadline of Tuesday, January 3.

Produced in Kent manager Julie Monkman said: "If voting continues at this rate then the Taste of Kent Awards 2012 should see voting exceed last year's total of 10,000 votes. That's an incredible vote of confidence and shows just how much Kent's consumers care about good quality food and drink in the Garden of England.

"We are also seeing a number of new businesses engaging with the awards for the first time as producers and retailers want to be part of the county's most prestigious badge of excellence."

From beer, wine, cider/perry and fruit juice, to artisan food producer of the year, consumers have the chance to nominate their favourite dining experience in the restaurant and dining pub categories. The general public can also nominate the county's best retailers – from meat and seafood sellers, through

to farmers' markets and the best all-round food retailer of the year.

Produced in Kent, organiser of the Taste of Kent Awards, is celebrating the eighth annual awards with the introduction of a prestigious Produced in Kent Award.

This will be a discretionary award presented to a person or business considered to be a true champion of local food and drink.

Ms Monkman said: "What better New Year gift could we all give Kent's best food and drink products and operators than the public honour and praise they deserve. So I'd encourage everyone to place their votes."

Following the consumer vote, the three companies/products who receive the most votes will go forward as finalists in each category to be judged by mystery shoppers, diners and an expert judging panel – ahead of the glittering awards night at Oakwood House Hotel, Maidstone, on March 2, 2012.

Demand for the Taste of Kent Awards has also seen the introduction of three self-nominating business awards. These include two Kent food product awards for the retail and foodservice categories, as well as the visionary AONB food, farming and landscape award, to recognise the contribution farmers and food producers make to the quality of our landscape.

Taste of Kent Awards has attracted a new overall sponsor – Vertex Law – while around a dozen other companies sponsor individual categories, including the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty),

Barclays Bank, Biddenden Vineyards, Hadlow College, Kent County Council, Kent Life, Kent Frozen Foods, Quex Park Estates, NFU Mutual, Opies, Stephen's Fresh Foods,

Rural Sector Solutions, Shepherd Neame, Wilkins Kennedy FKC and Visit Kent.

■ For more information go to www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk.



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Hospice joy as X Factor tops chart

CHARITY Demelza is set to cash-in after a single issued by the X Factor finalists seems set for number one this weekend. The version of

Wishing on a Star will see proceeds go to Together for Short Lives which will benefit hospices such as Bobbing-based Demelza.

ACCIDENT

Police probe mystery surrounding woman who died in pond fall

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A WOMAN who was pulled from an icy pond in Edenbridge by a member of the public has died in hospital.

Officers were called to the scene shortly after 11.50am on Wednesday when a woman in her mid-50s was pulled from the pond in Station Road by a quick-thinking passer-by.

Paramedics treated the woman on the scene and she was rushed to Redhill Hospital by air ambulance.

However, despite efforts

to save her, she died later on in day.

Police are not currently treating the incident as suspicious, but are trying to establish the circumstances of what happened.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated incident, a man was arrested after a hit-and-run incident left an off-duty police officer with injuries to his head and leg.

A 45-year-old was quizzed at Tonbridge police station after the incident which took place around 1.30pm in Edenbridge also on Wednesday afternoon.

A silver Audi hit the policeman near to Boots on the High Street before driving off.

Police arrested the man on suspicion of theft, failing to stop after an accident and dangerous driving.

The off-duty officer sustained an injury to his leg and head and was taken to the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury.

Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact Kent Police on 101 or Kent Crimstoppers on 0800 555 111 quoting reference 30-0572.

DEATH



MISSSED: Cllr Colin Dibsall

Council is left shocked after councillor's sudden death

SEVENOAKS District Council is in mourning after the death this week of one of its longest serving councillors, Colin Dibsall.

Cllr Dibsall died on Tuesday at Darent Valley Hospital after being admitted as an emergency.

A council spokesman said: "His close family were able to be with him.

"His sudden passing was a great shock to his family and everyone at the council."

Colin Dibsall was a dedicated local councillor who was first elected to Sevenoaks District Council in 1987, to represent the Crockenhill ward, later renamed Crockenhill & Well Hill.

The Liberal Democrat also represented Crockenhill as a parish councillor. He was elected to Eynsford Parish Council in 1983, when Crockenhill was part of parish, then to Crockenhill Parish Council at its inception in 1987.

ANTIQUES

Auction success shows appeal of Tunbridge ware is growing

AUCTIONEERS selling a range of antique Tunbridge ware items have raised thousands of pounds after the hammer fell on a collection which proved a big hit with collectors.

Tunbridge ware refers to intricate marquetry wooden boxes and accessories produced during the 18th and 19th centuries as mementoes. They were sold to wealthy visitors to the popular spa town which came increasingly sophisticated.

A rare child's sewing box decorated to look like a little house (pictured) and more than 170 years old, was one of the big sellers, with an anonymous buyer snapping it up for £4,800.

Other highlights included a sewing companion in the form of a painted cottage, inscribed a 'present from Hastings' which went for £768.

Items with designs related to Brighton attracted a lot of interest with a cribbage board selling for £720, a regency Tunbridge penwork sewing box depicting Brighton selling for £1,860 and a Brighton related candle chamber stick selling for £696.



Robert Bleasdale, auctioneer and director of specialist auctioneers at Bleasdales Limited, which hosted the auction in Warwick, said: "There seems to have been a real buzz surrounding painted and penwork Tunbridge ware this year, with bidding

from as far afield as Japan and Dubai.

"The desire by some collectors to own really good quality examples of Tunbridge ware is still strong and judging by the enquiries we've already had for next year's sale it looks unlikely to wane."

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CRIME

'Virtual' justice system could see drink drivers banned within hours

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

DRINK drivers could be banned from the road in the space of just 90 minutes after police launched a Christmas crackdown involving new virtual court technology.

Over the next month, motorists found under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be put before magistrates immediately, meaning they could lose their licence just hours after being charged.

Currently, drink drivers are bailed, allowing them to drive for a number of weeks before their case is decided.

Deputy Chief Constable Alan Pughsley said around two people are killed every week on Kent's roads, with one in six deaths involving a driver under the influence of drink or drugs.

"Our message is simple; if you are driving, stay

sober and alert – or risk losing your licence," he said.

The use of virtual courts was trialled last December with 17 people appearing before a magistrate via the video network. In one case, a motorist was banned just 90 minutes after being charged.

The launch of the latest Christmas crackdown follows a visit to Kent by justice minister Nick Herbert who praised the Live Links initiative and virtual courts system, which was launched in Folkestone this week.

Live Links allows police officers to give evidence in court via the police station, allowing them to use the time they would otherwise spend waiting around and travelling to court to carry out frontline duties.

Kent Police are having to make cuts of 500 police officer posts and 1,000 civilian support staff over four years, so saving valuable time is crucial.

The Virtual Court allows a defendant charged

in a police station to have their first hearing held over a secure video link to the magistrates' court.

The system has already been rolled out in Medway and will be implemented in Canterbury, Thanet and Maidstone.

Insp Bob Platt said the scheme in Kent had been a success, saving a "huge" amount of police time.

"By using Live Links the officer can either give that evidence, or be stood down, quickly and get back onto the beat and fight crime in the communities they serve," he said.

"We are now planning to extend the use of Virtual Courts and Live Links to include a facility for other types of witnesses to give evidence."

More than 1,400 people have appeared using the Virtual Court system in Kent.

Live Links was introduced in July, and in the first 24 cases more than 100 hours of police time were saved.



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KOS CAMPAIGN

Cancer patient helped by campaign



By Marijke Cox
 marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CANCER sufferer living with no heating or hot water has been thrown a lifeline by the Surviving Winter campaign.

The woman, who has breast cancer and arthritis, and her husband were identified through a project run by Macmillan Cancer Support and the Citizens Advice Bureau, which helps people with cancer who need welfare advice.

Campaigners say the couple are a perfect example of why better-off elderly people should consider 'recycling' their £200 winter fuel payment to help the left fortunate.

The Thanet couple, who asked not to be named, could not afford to install a heating system so they had struggled through last winter in bitterly cold temperatures with their grown-up son, who has learning difficulties.

When the wife was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year, her husband – who suffers from severe breathlessness – had to carry jugs of hot water

upstairs for her to wash and hot water bottles to keep her warm.

Speaking on behalf of the couple, Macmillan CAB welfare benefit caseworker Marian Nyman said the family had faced another freezing winter until help arrived from the Archant KOS Media-backed Surviving Winter appeal.

"We managed to get Warm Front (a Government-funded scheme) to put the heating system in, but they couldn't do the plumbing," she said.

"We raised some money through Macmillan but we couldn't pay for it unless we could find the rest – it was difficult to see who could help. We heard about the Surviving Winter fund and that helped come up with the rest of the money."

Around £370 was donated from the fund and the couple are now due to have the work completed.

"They are immensely grateful and wanted to say 'thank you'," said Ms Nyman.

"They were really struggling and that had been going on for quite some time. It was only when she was diagnosed with

cancer and they asked for help that something was done."

The Surviving Winter appeal, run by Kent Community Foundation, invites well-off households to donate some or all of their £200 winter fuel payment to poorer elderly and vulnerable people.

The winter fuel payment is given tax-free by the Government to every household with a person aged 60 or over.

"A number of people have found they don't need the money and if that's the case, the Surviving Winter appeal is a good place to donate it," said Ms Nyman.

So far, a number of high profile people have donated their funds to the appeal, including former Maidstone and the Weald Tory MP Ann Widdecombe, Sir David Jason and Sir Michael Parkinson.

Sir Terry Wogan is also supporting the drive. He said: "This is an excellent way for local people to help some of the most vulnerable older people."

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News

THEATRE



Picture: ANKE.BLOGS.COM

LARGER THAN LIFE: Students from the Skinners' Kent Academy created the giant spinning wheel

Star turn goes front of house to promote this year's panto

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A GIANT spinning wheel has been unveiled for the front of the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells to mark this year's pantomime.

Created by a group of students from the Skinners' Kent Academy, it will welcome all visitors attending the theatre for the eagerly anticipated launch of *Sleeping Beauty*, which gets under way on December 10.

Teenagers teamed up with stage technicians at the theatre to build the wheel which will also help raise awareness of the theatre's Christmas

charity - Pembury's Hospice in the Weald.

Academy principal Sian Carr said: "This project has been a wonderful chance for them to take their learning outside the classroom, learn new skills and contribute to an exciting community project."

As part of last week's unveiling, spinners from the East Sussex Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers were also on hand to demonstrate and talk about the centuries old craft (pictured top left).

Sleeping Beauty features TV stars Glynis Barber, Derek Moran and Christopher Beeny and is being billed as the theatre's "most spectacular pantomime yet".

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AWARDS

Dame Kelly's fury over no women on BBC shortlist

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

DAME Kelly Holmes has hit out at the BBC after the shortlist for this year's Sports Personality of the Year award was exclusively men.

The Hildenborough athlete, who memorably secured two gold medals during the Athens Olympic Games in 2004, said she was stunned when she saw the list.

Telling her followers on website Twitter, she said: "You know I'm a massive fan being a past winner BUT you have got it wrong this year. Where are the women?? Come on guys, it's 2011."

At the end of 2004, to cap her remarkable victories in both the 800m and 1,500m, Dame Kelly picked up the prestigious title, voted on by the viewing public.

Since then, only one other woman has won the title – equestrienne Zara Philips in 2006.

Other female athletes were equally as scathing at the lack of women on the list.

Triathlon world champion Chrissie Wellington said it was "disgraceful" while another double Olympic gold medalist, swimmer Rebecca



BORN WINNER: Dame Kelly after 2004 Games

Adlington, said "there have been some great women in sport this year".

The shortlist was compiled from nominations from sports editors of newspapers and magazines. Among those to make the list was Darren Clarke, who sensationally triumphed in the Open at Sandwich this summer.

The top ten are: Mark Cavendish (cycling), Darren Clarke (golf), Alastair Cook (cricket), Luke Donald (golf), Mo Farah (athletics), Dai Greene (athletics), Amir Khan (boxing), Rory McIlroy (golf), Andy Murray (tennis) and Andrew Strauss (cricket).

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HISTORY

'Lost' Henry VIII dockyard uncovered by funnyman on Tudor television dig

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE first evidence confirming the site of Henry VIII's dockyard in Kent has been uncovered by comedian Rory McGrath during a search for Medway's hidden Tudor shipyard.

The discoveries, which included medieval relics and evidence of a huge storehouse, were made as he filmed for a new television series.

McGrath and a team of archaeologists spent four days carrying out the first-ever search for the original dockyard on the banks of the River Medway.

This area had never been explored before and the team, working for Oxford Scientific Films, uncovered the evidence that proved this was the site of some of the earliest shipyards.

The evidence uncovered included a ship's hook, nails and tankards used by Tudor shipbuilders from the time of King Henry VIII.

They also found the foundations of a vast Georgian building that would have been filled with the cannon that armed ships including Nelson's Victory.

Pub Dig is being shown on the History Channel and the second programme features Chatham's Command House pub, which was once the headquarters for the Storekeeper of Ordnance, who was responsible for all naval armaments.

Paul Blinkhorn, field archae-



UNCOVERED: Rory McGrath and Paul Blinkhorn, and Henry VIII

ologist on the project, said: "Digging at the Chatham Dockyard was, as an archaeologist, both a thrill and a privilege.

"To be able to carry out the first formal excavations on a site of such global importance was certainly an experience I shall never forget, and the results were better than we could have dared to hope."

The manager of the Command House, Keith Stephen, added: "I have always wanted to find out more about the history of the place and this has given me the chance to do that."

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers, said: "We are delighted this team has made such significant discoveries, which have helped increase our understanding of Medway's great maritime

heritage. We hope this will help draw even more attention to our bid for World Heritage Status for the dockyard and defences at Chatham."

Chatham is the world's most complete example of an historic dockyard from the age of sail and early age of steam (1700-1865) and was instrumental in securing and maintaining Britain's international influence, leading the world in industrial design, naval architecture and military technology.

The UK can propose one World Heritage Site a year. Chatham Dockyard and its Defences is on the Government's shortlist of 11 sites for nominations. The next available application date is January, 2013.

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News

CRIME

Eight arrests as reward offered in police hunt for cashpoint ramraiders

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

EIGHT men were arrested this week as a £25,000 reward was put up to help catch ramraiders targeting cash machines.

The money is being put up by LINK cash machine scheme.

It follows a series of raids over six days in November. Police are investigating whether the raids are linked.

Three men had previously been arrested. And on Tuesday eight men, ranging in age from 18 to 30 were arrested in Sevenoaks, Longfield, Gravesend, Orpington, and Maidstone.

All were released on bail. On November 16 thieves used a JCB digger, stolen from a building site, to rip a cash machine from the wall of the Waitrose store in St Bernard Paget Avenue, Ashford. Then on November 19 a



THEFT: Three ATM raids took place during six days in November

gang attempted to steal a cash machine from the NatWest Bank in High Street, Snodland, and on November 22 thieves stole a cash machine from the Co-op store in Newington High Street, near Sittingbourne.

A dedicated hotline number has been set up by the investigation team for people to call.

Det Chief Insp Keith Davies of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "The reward being put on offer by the LINK Scheme is a substan-

tial amount and I would urge anyone with information to call the hotline - we will treat calls in the strictest confidence.

"The public can also help police by calling 999 if they see any unusual movement of diggers and similar plant machinery at night or people acting suspiciously near banks or shops with cash machines."

Anyone with information can call the hotline on 01622 652494 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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MIRROR: An almost intact 'concrete listening ear' can be found along the coast from Hythe

MoD's concrete 'ears'

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EXAMPLES of an almost forgotten military technology that was developed in the late 1920s and early 1930s still exist along the Kent coast to the west of Hythe and out onto Romney Marsh.

Concrete acoustic mirrors were devised in the aftermath of the Zeppelin and Gotha bomber raids of World War One to provide an early warning system in the event of aerial attacks in any future conflict.

But the development of radar meant they were never used – even though they were sensitive enough to pick up the sound of the Golden Arrow train leaving Calais station.

Also known as 'concrete listening ears', one survives – although it is fenced off – a couple of miles down the coast from Hythe. Another closer to the town has fallen into ruin with just rubble remaining.

Both can easily be reached on foot via a path which leads up the cliff. Near to the (mostly) intact mirror is a derelict building dating from the same period which would most likely have acted as quarters and a base for spotters manning the device.

Further examples of the listening ears still exist at Denge, where there is also a large concrete wall which was designed to provide a similar function.

Other sites can be found near to Selsey Bill, Sunderland, Redcar and Kilnsea in the UK, as well as at Bahar on the island of Malta.



The acoustic mirror programme was the brainchild of Dr William Sansome Tucker, who was director of acoustical research at the Air Defence Experimental Establishment at Biggin Hill.

His devices were designed to pick up the engine noises of approaching enemy aircraft as sound waves were caught in the belly of the mirror and relayed back through microphones and a stethoscope to an operator.

The mirrors worked by concentrating sound waves towards a central point, where the microphone would have been located.

However, their use was limited

as aircraft became faster and so would have been over the coast before effective action could have been taken.

Operators also found it difficult to distinguish between aircraft and shipping.

But the programme was not an entire waste of time and effort.

The system which had been designed to link the mirrors and the operators and plot the movements of incoming aircraft was taken on by the radar teams and so played a part in the defeat of the Luftwaffe in the skies over southern England in 1940.

■ For news and sport see www.yourshepway.co.uk.

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OPINION

Help us stop winter deaths

Carol Lynch, chief executive of Kent Community Foundation, explains the need to 'recycle' Winter Fuel Payments to help those who are most in need

EACH year there are more than 1,000 excess winter deaths in Kent and Medway, with cold weather exacerbating coronary and respiratory illnesses.

For every winter-related death, there will be dozens suffering, facing a difficult choice between eating and heating, becoming isolated and withdrawn from their community.

Nearly five and a half million households are living in fuel poverty nationwide, with more than 76,500 households in Kent and Medway. Almost half of those living in fuel poverty are aged over 60.

With soaring fuel bills and the prospect of another cold winter, older people are at risk of plunging into fuel poverty.

Surviving Winter is a UK-wide co-ordinated campaign encouraging people to make donations to help older and vulnerable people suffering from fuel poverty this winter.

The campaign was inspired by people who wanted to donate their Government Winter Fuel Payment to help elderly people in real need.

This Winter Fuel Payment is a universal benefit, which means everyone over 60 receives it regardless of their personal circumstances.

This is the first time Surviving Winter has been run in Kent, although other Community Foundations ran it in other counties last winter with great success.

Of course, not everyone over 60 will be in a position to 'recycle' their Winter Fuel Payment in this way and Kent Community Foundation supports anyone who needs the payment to hold on to it and make sure they keep themselves warm.

Opinion is divided on the notion of universal benefits, but there is no political agenda behind this campaign. Our view

is that providing a channel for people to help others is 'policy neutral'. Means-testing can be costly and we know one-in-three pensioners do not claim all the benefits they are entitled to. We come at this from the stance that it makes sense to enable those who can afford to, to 'recycle' their payment to pensioners in real need.

As a Community Foundation, we can ensure that any money donated is directed where it is needed.

We work with hundreds of local groups who are able to identify those individuals who need extra support, such as help with fuel bills, hot meals, lunch clubs, transport schemes, and advice on keeping warm.

Kent Community Foundation tries not to compete with local charities. Indeed Community Foundations exist, above all, to address the growing 'Tescoisation' of the charitable



6699

Nearly five-and-a-half million homes are living in fuel poverty

sector, where the big get bigger through slick, effective fundraising operations, while the small charities often wither.

Community Foundations do this by encouraging local people to give money to small community charities precisely because we believe they are often very efficient and effective at what they do.

If people are already giving their Winter Fuel Payment to a local group, or if they know of a project they want to support, then we would encourage them to do so.

There are many others who would like their money to go to older people within the county, but may not know where they are. With our 10 years' experience connecting local donors with local causes, that's where our expertise lies.

■ You can donate at www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html.

KOS COMMENT

Bumpy journey ahead for the new airport

WHILE KCC leader Paul Carter's idea to locate a new airport across the Thames in Thurrock may seem appealing, the location he's pinpointed is actually a lot closer than people may think to the potential Kent sites.

Although moving the location to Essex would mean protection for a internationally-important wildlife site on the north Kent coast, there would still be the noise of planes flying overhead to contend with.

So, while avoiding an airport on our doorstep is a positive, we would still have some noise, and even perhaps miss out on first pick for the new jobs.

Fresh treasures from our glorious history

WE ALL know Kent is steeped in history, so it doesn't always come as a surprise when yet more treasure is uncovered. This doesn't mean, however, the latest discovery confirming Henry VIII's dockyard is any less exciting.

It just shows once again the crucial role the county has played in British history.

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M2 bridge over the River Medway
by Paul Jerreat

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End the heat or eat dilemma

A COUPLE of items from your last weekend's edition need commenting on.

Firstly, as the Government recently gave many millions of pounds of our money to help the starving in East Africa, will they now reinstate that part of the Winter Fuel Allowance they callously took away after getting into office, so the elderly, infirm and less well off in this country don't have to choose between 'heat or eat'?

Secondly with water companies asking us to be careful with water use, isn't it about time the Government put a stop to foreign owned companies like Coca Cola and all the others that waste countless billions and billions of gallons of water producing all those rubbish drinks?

**Roger Arnold
Herne Bay**

Football's alive and kicking

I AM writing to express my

concerns and utter contempt for a blog that you published regarding non-league football on the Isle of Sheppey, dated November 4.

The blog from the start appeared to be close to slanderous towards the people of the Isle of Sheppey with its references to the 'gene pool' and that we have got 'six toes' to control a football, and the appalling jibe at Rod Hull which I am sure his family would like to have read.

The football facts! Can we ask that the full facts of what is going on in our neck of the woods is fully researched before going to press as the slurs Mr Atkins feels fit to put on the island are outdated.

I will update you on a few facts about the state of football on the Isle of Sheppey.

The folded Sheppey United that Mr Atkins refers to is now re-instated. If he were to bother to check FA records Sheppey United are affiliated to the Kent Football Association as an Intermediate Club alongside Sheerness East.

The club are only a division below the current East side and by the way this season is going (only one loss) they will

be in the same division next season and the growth will continue.

They now have a new home which a new committee are working hard to recoup finances and plans are being made for a long term future for Sheppey United FC.

Mr Atkins goes on about producing players of quality. Did he know or did he care that we have a number of players who come from Sheppey and are playing for clubs in the Kent League, the Kent Invicta League, Ryman League, Blue Square League and Barclays Premier League.

Remember Chris Smalling, Fred? He came from the Isle of Sheppey and top referee Gavin Ward, that name was missed from the blog as well.

All of this football that is so badly needed for the Island has to come from the bottom. I think Mr Atkins would agree that. Let's look at the grass-roots situation on the island.

We have a great youth set up on the island with Sheerness East, Range Rovers and New Road FC all running sides from ages 7-18 years and encouraging hundreds if not thousands of kids to play on

and around the island.

The move into the junior adult game that is based in and around the island is in such a poor state that the local league that has been established since 1966 is still going strong. It boasts nearly a thousand players alone this season, it runs its own youth league, it's actively involved in new FA schemes such as the introduction of Futsal, and boasts three qualified officials on 90 per cent of all of its matches. The future is so bleak for the Isle of Sheppey!

Whoops, sorry nearly forgot. I do believe that the Sheppey Sunday Football League were the first winners of the FA National Respect Award for the Best Grassroots League in 2009-10 and were highly commended in the 2010-11 season...

Yes, Mr Atkins, that was a national award and it was the Isle of Sheppey Sunday League.

The very island that football has no future on, if you believe Mr Atkins.

Can I personally thank everyone who gets involved in the game that is making great strides in the area, the

game in Sheppey is alive – very much alive.

**Mark Rogers
League Secretary and
KCFA Council Member**

Give us carols in full please

HERE is my request for all the churches and choirs preparing their Christmas programmes.

Please can you perform all carols complete and in their original form? My reason is as follows.

Most texts follow their own unique structure. The six verses of The First Nowell, for example, seem to convey the coming together of the Wise Men and Shepherds. Ultimately, this symbolises the union of east and west, summed up in the glorious line "then let us all with one accord".

Performances of this beautiful English folk song are often given without the Wise Men verses. Here the structure and message of the complete text are destroyed.

I have even heard it sung with the first two verses followed by verse five. Here a performance goes straight

from the shepherds to say "then entered in those wise men three". As the Wise Men have not yet been mentioned, the 'abridged' text makes no sense. The poetry is ruined.

The argument that repeating a tune so many times is boring to an audience falls flat when considering the number of classical favourites that do just that. Ravel's Bolero is the best example.

**Robert Duncan Martin
Canterbury**

How can we buy homes?

LAST week the Prime Minister said he wanted more young families to experience the sense of ownership, pride and independence that comes with home ownership.

That's a great sentiment but people in my home town of Dartford must be gasping in incomprehension at the gap between his vision and the reality.

The Tory-led government has slashed the budget for new affordable homes by 60 per cent. Housebuilding is down, homelessness is up, people can't get mortgages and rents are soaring.

When the Prime Minister was making his dreamy statement, presumably he was aware the average mortgage deposit size in October was 40 per cent – unaffordable to most. He must also know that housing completions in the South East have fallen over eight per cent in just the third quarter of this year.

Dartford residents are especially aware of the diminishing supply of homes – they know that most existing projects have largely stalled and that almost no new affordable housing is being built.

We face a housing crisis and people in Dartford, and in Kent generally, won't forgive being served up nothing more than fine words by this government on housing. They may also remember that the party that delivers homes isn't the Tories at all – under Labour two million new homes were built in England between 1997 and 2010; half a million of which were affordable homes. When it comes to the roof over one's head, actions speak louder than David Cameron's words.

**John Adams
Labour's former PPC for
Dartford and Labour
councillor for Stone**

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LISA sexy blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Discretion assured. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879**

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTm sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857**

CARRIE 28yr old Christmas cracker, seeking easygoing confident character to pull me! AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classie, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441**

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DIANE successful feisty business woman, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTm him. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, Auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, understanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classie, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441**

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DIANE successful feisty business woman, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTm him. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203**

WANNA spend Chrimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Funt! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009**

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTm outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187**

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375150**

TALL slim, blonde female, kind, caring, honest, seeks older male, 78+ to treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378233**

LIFE is too short to live it alone! Eve, attractive blonde blue eyed bubbly lady looking for similar genuine tactile person for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378011**

TAMMY young 31yr old good looking brunette with no ties, seeking fun romantic guy for meals out, cosy nights in and more. No time wasters pls. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378009**

HELEN 34, lonely single mum of one, slim, attractive, tall, WLTm male for friendship maybe developing into something more later. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378007**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wine/dining, theatre, WLTm reliable male for dinner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375731**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interests, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTm older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

YOUNG free single female, seeks male for nights in/out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388484**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTm male for adult fun. AKA. can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**

SUSIE seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

CHRIS new to area, late 50's, slim, 5ft 5ins, fair hair, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378725**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTm romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**

FED up with lonely nights in! 39yr old brunette with green eyes WLTm someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**

BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**

22YR old leggy blonde, seeking likeminded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

CARING 41yr old genuine single mum, wanting LTR with caring man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377907**

DOREEN 70's, 5ft 7ins, medium build, green eyes, likes sports, walks, Irish/country music, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373731**

JULIE long haired blonde with big blue eyes and size 12 figure, loves good wine, meals out, good conversation, WLTm young at heart male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377533**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wine/dining, theatre, WLTm reliable male for dinner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**

WHERE have all the good men gone? Cassie slim attractive female with lots of love to give, seeking similar sensitive companion. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377529**

AMELIA fun, loving, late 40's, blonde, attractive, likes walks, meals out, seeks similar white male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377557**

DIANA attractive lady, OHAC, blue eyes, fair hair, 5ft 4ins, slim, 60, seeks caring gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376803**

BERYL 68, ex nurse, lonely, seeking gent of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376711**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**

JULIE pretty 39yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577**

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575**

PAT 70's, 5ft, curdly, seeks male for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. AKA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTm older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving



brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for mainly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757**

SOCIABLE cuddly 70's lady, GSOH, N/S, likes cinema, days out, coast, seeks genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369297**

I'M Gorgeous, lively seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, good times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

PAUL afro Caribbean male, British born, 50's, likes theatre, pubs, clubs, fun times, seeks vivacious, intelligent, good looking lady, 27-46 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379863**

LOVING genuine male, 41, seeks similar loving lady, 30-65 for genuine, loving future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380659**

JIM slim, 6ft, 57, many interests, seeking female, 47-57 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380567**

GRAHAM 45, brown hair/eyes, seeks female for no strings, discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380549**

GENUINE Eastender, varied interests, seeks similar homely female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380541**

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, independent, OHAC, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388648**

MALE 77 seeks female, 75-77 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380401**

JIM 50, genuine, honest, kind, seeks female with similar values. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379659**

JOHN 61, reliable, tactile, understanding, varied interests, seeks romantic, down to earth, under-standing, cuddly lady, 55-67. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379645**

RICHARD 59, N/S, likes meals out, country walks, classic cars, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388610**

ROBERT 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, medium build, seeks sincere, caring female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377785**

52YR old male, honest, reliable, seeks slim female, 40-48 for friendship, romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377747**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, likes holidays, cinema, countryside, meals out, walks, seeks genuine female for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379313**

NICK 41, no ties, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388590**

MALE seeks outgoing, sensual, tactile, mature female, 40-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388582**

TALL intelligent man, late 40's, fit, enjoys outdoors, meals out, seeking discreet female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379877**

TERRY seeking sexy guy for fun and love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380785**

EXPERIENCED male, seeks single male/couple for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379403**

BI male, N/S, looking for convincing TVCD, 35-45, for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378471**

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Autumn Statement: 'Key task now is for consistent action'

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Kent and Medway branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has welcomed the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, saying it is a step in the right direction to help small firms that are central to economic growth and job creation in the UK.

George Osborne has admitted that the Government will have to borrow £111 billion more than expected by 2016 due to the lack of economic growth.

Unemployment is also expected to peak at 2.8 million next year.

But the FSB says it is pleased the Government has enhanced the seed enterprise investment scheme, which will offer greater relief on capital gains and income tax for people investing in small businesses. This will give start-ups and fledgling businesses the chance to bypass the high-street banks and find alternative sources of finance.

Extra funds for small businesses through the credit-easing scheme are also welcomed by the FSB. It should help to decrease the cost of finance for small firms and will hopefully increase the amount of lending to small businesses – especially with today's figures from the Bank of England showing that lending fell in the last three months.

However, the FSB has concerns that guaranteeing the loan books of existing high-street banks may serve to reinforce



HIGH BORROWING: George Osborne

their market position. The Government must therefore go further to promote the emergence of alternative forms of finance and greater competition in the banking sector, it says.

Measures to reduce the risk of taking on new staff and increase job creation are welcomed and an overhaul of the tribunal system is also a step in the right direction, claims the FSB.

But with youth unemployment rising to record levels, the Chancellor needs to be more ambitious in incentivising job creation by extending schemes like Work Trials to prevent unemployment

becoming entrenched, according to the FSB, which welcomed attempts to tackle firms' rising overheads.

Based on September's inflation figure, businesses would have seen a 10 per cent increase in their business rates over the last two years. An extension to small-business rates relief will be welcomed by many small high-street businesses as a way to help manage overheads.

Deferring January's fuel-duty increase is welcomed, too, but a three-pence rise is still coming and will hit small firms and households in August. The FSB is calling for a longer-term solution that not only takes the volatility out of fuel prices but the politics as well. Small businesses need to be able to know what their overheads will be in six months' time and that is why the FSB is calling for a true fuel-duty stabiliser mechanism.

Plans to improve the country's transport network have been welcomed. While improvements could help small businesses, it is also vital that small firms are given the chance to win these and other public procurement contracts.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The announcements in the Autumn Statement address many of the concerns raised by small businesses and are therefore to be welcomed.

"The key now is for the Government to be consistent and set to the task of translating these policy intentions into tangible actions on the ground.

"Targeting the rising cost of over-

heads is imperative to help firms weather the economic storm that could be heading our way, so measures to limit the rise in fuel prices and business rates are very welcome.

"Small businesses are struggling to access finance and so the enterprise investment scheme will open up new sources of finance for new and growing businesses. We hope the banks will pass on the lower interest rates to small businesses and that more finance will be available."

Nicholas Leeming, business development director at Zoopla.co.uk, commented on the statement's possible effect on the property market.

He said: "It's now Plan B for the first-time-buyer market. The stamp-duty holiday has been scrapped because it was not deemed to be doing enough to boost buyer numbers and instead the Government is focusing on underwriting loans for first-time buyers and boosting affordable-housing supply.

"But these plans should not be mutually exclusive. If the Government is serious about helping people get on to the housing ladder, then underwriting loans and increasing supply should have been introduced to support the stamp-duty holiday, not replace it.

"We're in danger of house-builders and lenders cherry-picking the schemes that suit them rather than the market, which could leave us in exactly the same position in 12 months' time."

ENVIRONMENT

Hotel group tops carbon reduction league table

QHOTELS, the award-winning collection of 21 four-star hotels across the UK, which includes Ashford International, has been named top hotel group in the first Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) League Table.

This makes it second out of all hospitality companies ranked in the league and 30th out of more than 2,000 UK organisations ranked.

The CRC league table measures the performance of organisations that fall under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and aims to provide a strong financial and reputational incentive for participants to reduce energy

consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Hotel group managing director Michael Purtil said: "This ranking is a superb recognition of our commitment to CO₂ and energy management.

"Measures to improve our carbon efficiency have included retro-fitting low-energy lamps, pipe and roof insulation, air-conditioning timers, PIR-controlled lighting, water-flow regulators for showers and digital gas meters that can record consumption every half hour.

"We have saved more than 2,747 tonnes of CO₂ in just one year – and we're looking to improve on that year-on-year."

CONFERENCE

Trade meeting focuses on red tape as MP listens to concerns of SMEs

BUSINESS secretary Vince Cable addressed an audience of Kent's commercial directors at a trade community conference in Leeds Castle on Sunday.

The MP focused on the need to minimise the 'red tape' that businesses have to go through in day-to-day trading.

The managing director for Kent's Perfectly Clear Marketing, Bruce Bell, was impressed with what the MP had to say.

The Sittingbourne businessman said: "Mr Cable was very much in a listening mood, which was nice to see. He wanted to



take feedback from the floor.

"It was all about trying to have more support for businesses in various guises and knocking down the red tape and ensuring we were more free than we currently are to do our business"

Mr Cable spoke to the Kent Institute of Directors, whose members provided scenarios from their business background and

problems they faced in the current climate.

Mr Bell also takes up the voluntary role of chairing the events and marketing committee for Kent IoD.

He said: "On banking, he was saying there is going to be funding support for SMEs to borrow more freely.

"It was a supportive message, he was open and honest, and he struck many in the room as someone who was actually listening.

"It was a positive meeting – on finding different solutions on the employment front and the banking front and the unblocking of red tape. That is what they are trying to do."

AWARD



Historic brewer wins European recognition for its supply chain

SHEPHERD Neame has been named Team Of The Year in the European Supply Chain Excellence Awards 2011, beating multinational corporations such as Coca Cola and Vodafone.

The Faversham brewery was praised for its enthusiasm, passion and commitment to customer service and improvements to the supply chain.

Recent initiatives have helped increase capacity, reduce costs and improve product availability to meet higher demand and expectations from customers.

Tom Falcon, production and distribution director, said: "This win reflects the commitment and hard work of the whole team and the dedication they have shown in driving up product availability and customer satisfaction.

"We will continue to look for ways to improve our supply chain and to make it even more efficient."

The European Supply Chain Excellence Awards were launched in 1997 as an initiative to recognise and reward organisations in Europe that demonstrate excellence in their supply chain operations. They are renowned for the rigour of the judging process.

Britain's oldest brewer, Shepherd Neame was also recognised for supply-chain improvements at the Manufacturer of The Year Awards 2010 and awarded Best Improvement Project at the Process Excellence Awards 2010.

EDUCATION

Contract signed for college construction

BAM Construction in the South East has secured an £18 million contract to design and build the new facilities for K College at its campus at Elwick Road, Ashford

K College is the largest college in Kent and has a number of campuses, including those in Tonbridge and Folkestone.

BAM will provide general-purpose teaching accommodation, a new technology centre, support services and landscaping. The architects are HNW. The site has been out of use for a number of years.

BAM has an extensive track record in Kent, especially in the education sector, having recently completed two campuses for North West Kent College in Dartford and Gravesend, and it is currently working at a preparatory school in Tonbridge called Hilden Grange.

The company is also close to completing the Bluewater Events Venue in Dartford, having also delivered the Whitefriars scheme in Canterbury just a few years ago.

Internet sales help coast town's economy to grow

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

DOVER has one of the fastest-growing economies in the UK when it comes to business being done online.

It is 19th in the country when it comes to internet-generated commerce with about 23 per cent growth from 2010 to 2011.

Top was Scunthorpe with 47.2 per cent, while Dover was the only Kent town in the top 20.

To compile this list, Google short-listed the 700 towns with the highest online economic activity and then ranked them in terms of the percentage increase in local small and medium-sized enterprises using AdWords over the last year.

Figures from industry analyst the Boston Consulting Group show that companies with an online presence grow at a rate four to eight times faster than those without.

Ben Lawson, manager of Britannia Coaches, which started 20 years ago, provides coaches for hire in Dover, all from the company's website. He said: "We celebrated 20 years of our business this year and have been online for nearly half of that.

"I started a big online push early last year and now do more and more of my marketing online because you can target specific groups of people and you can measure your investment. We noticed a 60 per cent increase in customers since using AdWords and I have already recommended it to friends and family with businesses. It's been a great factor in the company's success."

Google has now awarded Dover the status of an eTown.

Dan Cobley, managing director of Google UK, said: "Dover has much to be proud of, with local business-owners turning to online opportunities to drive growth and boost their bottom lines.

"The internet is contributing massively towards the overall UK economy and we want to encourage and help more small businesses to get online and succeed online."

In recognition of Dover's eTown status and to encourage other small and medium-sized enterprises to join the growing success of online com-



EXPANDING THE ECONOMY: Dan Cobley, MD of Google UK, left, hands over the first-ever Google eTown award to Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover and Deal. The award celebrates towns across the UK with the highest online business growth over the last year, as discovered by the online search engine.

merce, Google is offering businesses the ability to receive free telephone support to create their first online advertising campaign and £50 worth of free credit.

Interested businesses should visit <http://www.gbbo.co.uk/etowns> for more information.

Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover and Deal, said: "Dover is proud of its Google eTown award and I am delighted to represent an area with such a

growing online spirit. The internet is playing a key role in Dover's economic growth, helping local businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive, and contributing overall to the wider British economy.

"I hope this award encourages other local businesses to get online and grow online."

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Software firm expands its staff and premises

FOLLOWING a 36 per cent year-on-year growth in turnover, software design company RDT is expanding its base at Kings Hill and recruiting more staff.

Founded 20 years ago, the company has been based at Kings Hill since 1999 and employs 59 staff.

It supplies packaged insurance systems and rating engine software to clients including RBS, Direct Line, Sterling Insurance and Towergate.

Currently occupying 5,000 sq ft in 4 Abbey Wood Road, the company plans to expand and recruit six more staff, and to accommodate this it is taking 2,347 sq ft in 39 Kings Hill Avenue – the back door of which is adjacent to the back door of its



GROWING: RDT is expanding next door to accommodate all its new staff

current offices. We are delighted to be expanding the business and are currently actively recruiting, meaning we will need

more room for additional staff," said CEO Mark Bates. "We didn't want the upheaval of moving the whole office, so taking space

next door is a practical and time-efficient solution."

Andrew Blevins, managing director of Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd, said: "We offer a value-for-money, quality environment and provide a range of options both in terms of space and leases, which make it easy for our tenants to adapt their space according to their needs.

"Taking space next door is the perfect solution for RDT and we plan to build a link so staff can easily move between buildings.

"RDT is a great success story and we are delighted to have them based in the Kings Hill community."

■ For all the latest jobs in Kent – with more than 1,500 advertised – see www.jobs24.co.uk/kent.

Showcase your destination to the county and benefit from some lasting publicity

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

PROPRIETORS of the county's visitor attractions are being invited to sign up for My Kent Big Weekend 2012 – the county's annual celebration of its tourism industry and the range of venues that entertain more than 56.6 million people every year.

My Kent Big Weekend 2012, showcasing the best of the county's tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses to thousands of residents, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18.

The weekend of Kent entertainment will also mark the end of the first England Tourism Week highlighting the importance of the industry to the national economy.

Plans are already in hand to ensure My Kent Big Weekend 2012 is the biggest and best to date, with even more destinations and venues taking part and more free tickets for people to explore new places and experiences on their doorstep.

Plus the organisers at Visit Kent, the county's tourism champions, are working with their colleagues in the Nord Pas de Calais and cross-Channel providers Eurolines and Eurotunnel to enable a number of the county's residents to enjoy a day visiting attractions in France and vice-versa.

Destinations- and event-organisers taking part in the My Kent Big Weekend are asked to offer a number of free tickets for county residents to visit their venues over the weekend.

Photographs and details of the attraction or event are then placed on the bespoke My Kent Big Weekend website which residents can browse before putting in requests for free tickets. Once the website closes, tickets are allocated on a ballot system.

Even when ticket applications have closed, the website remains open for viewing until after the event so that people can take another look at the many attractions taking part.

"Six years ago we launched the Kent Big Day Out and it has exceeded all our



IN THE LIGHT: Sandra Matthews-Marsh is urging attractions like Leeds Castle, above, to put themselves forward for next year's My Big Kent Weekend event

the attractions and experiences that Kent has to offer, going far beyond our iconic castles, cathedrals and historic houses to include many hidden gems such as art galleries, theatres, museums, sporting venues, creative experiences and even the centre of a village.

"This year we were able to give away 18,000 free tickets to 120 venues and I am optimistic that in 2012 more businesses will be able to take part and share in the fun and the long-term marketing benefits that this event offers.

"Our research shows more than 85 per cent of attractions taking part in 2011 thought it was an excellent event for them and, in total, participating attractions received more than £150,000 in secondary spend.

"Furthermore, 80 per cent of residents with free tickets said they would revisit the attraction they went to, while a staggering 98 per cent said they would be recommending it to their friends and family."

"It is a tremendous showcase for all

The aim of the My Kent Big Weekend campaign is to raise local awareness of the wealth of businesses in Kent that entertain visitors and contribute more than £3.2 billion annually to the county's economy.

"Kent and Medway have so much to offer, but when we are leading busy lives it is easy to lose touch with all the new destinations and developments," said Mrs Matthews-Marsh.

"My Kent Big Weekend gives us all a chance to go out and explore them for ourselves. Then, when we are entertaining friends and relatives or meet visitors in our area, we will be much better informed and able to tell them all about the places they can discover and enjoy during their stay.

"This will be particularly important in 2012, when we will be hosting so many people from across the UK and overseas keen to soak up the atmosphere of the London Games celebrations, Cultural Olympiad and Dickens Bicentenary."

CAMPAIGN



MP supports newsagents

SITTINGBOURNE and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson has written to Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, in support of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents' Press For Reform campaign.

A petition, signed by 20,000 customers of independent newsagents and convenience stores across the UK over the course of three weeks, was delivered to 10 Downing Street by more than 100 retailers from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The petition calls for the OFT to refer the newspaper and magazine industry to the Competition Commission for a full market investigation.

Retailers believe the very existence of independent news-sellers is threatened by the monopoly of the two remaining wholesale distributors and a few powerful publishers who control the supply and retail selling prices.

Small retailers say they could face arbitrary delivery charge hikes, alongside simultaneous margin cuts and frequent poor service, which adversely affects customer choice of when and where they can buy products.

Currently, the industry has no effective regulation and the campaign calls for this to be investigated by the Competition Commission.

Mr Henderson said: "Our small independent newsagents are an important part of our community and I am delighted to back the Press For Reform campaign."

Mum's the word as businesswoman short-listed for national award

A MOTHER and businesswoman has been named as a finalist for a national award.

Stephanie Hayman, from Deal, has been selected as a finalist in the prestigious NatWest Everywoman Awards, which recognises female role models and entrepreneurs who have created sustainable social businesses.

In 2006, Hayman conceived of and led the creation of Whole School Meals, a social enterprise that provides high-quality school meals to children across east Kent, all managed from headquarters in Deal.

After winning its first contract in 2006, Whole School Meals now serves 24 schools and is 75 per cent owned by 18 local schools.

The company's purpose is to provide nourishing, appetising meals using high-quality fresh ingredients supplied by local, independent suppliers and using as much Kentish produce as possible.

Hayman, now chair of Whole School Meals, said about her selection as a finalist: "I am delighted that this national competition recognises all our hard work here in east Kent and

the unique enterprise we have created together.

"I was appalled by the quality of school meals our children received prior to 2006, but I could envision a much better alternative to the industrial-style food that was being served.

"By creating Whole School Meals as a community-owned business, we have transformed the quality of school lunches and can proudly claim to be in the business of nourishing children.

"The directors and staff team at Whole School Meals are dedicated to providing tasty, appetising

meals and have put in a tremendous amount of work to help create this unique and inspiring social enterprise.

"There has been interest in our model from all over the country and I am keen now to take our approach to other communities so they can take control of their local school-meals service and ensure it meets the high standards we all want for our children and grandchildren."

The winners will be announced at a lunch ceremony at London's Dorchester Hotel on Wednesday, December 7.

Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Building blocks for a career in construction

Energy firm proud of perfect record

RENEWABLE energy expert Enevis has a perfect apprentice track record – having retained the services of 100 per cent of its graduates.

The Dartford-based business has taken on an average of four apprentices each year since 2001 and every one of these young recruits remains on the company payroll.

The Enevis apprentices are enrolled on either a mechanical or electrical course, with one day per week spent at college and the other four on site. The courses take between three and four years to complete.

Enevis human resources advisor Berni Halse said the nature of the renewables industry made the company's long-term commitment to education and its future workforce vital.

"A solid background in either mechanical or electrical engineering is crucial to work on any renewables project we offer, be it fitting a solar photovoltaic system or installing a ground source heat pump," she said.

"By taking on these apprentices, many of whom come from the local area, we are supporting Dartford, something which is core to Enevis' principles."

Students showing off business skills

HAIR curling, massages and even holidays were offered by MidKent College students to shoppers at Chatham's Dockside Factory Outlet.

Youngsters on courses run by the Services to People faculty set up stands at the retail destination to promote the wide range of services available to the public.

These include fine dining restaurants, a travel agency, and a hair and beauty salon all run by college students.

Hair and beauty technician Norna Squires, who organised the event, said: "A lot of people don't realise our students run businesses from the college, so we visited Dockside in the hope of drawing more of the public in."

"The stands attracted a lot of attention throughout the day and it was good for our young people to demonstrate what they have to offer."

The Services to People faculty covers courses in hair and beauty, hospitality and catering, and travel and tourism.

A £4 million housing development of flats in Rusthall has given more than 100 young people an insight into the construction industry.

The Town & Country Housing Group project at Simmonds Court provides 27 two-bedroom flats and six, one-bedroom flats.

During its development a skills centre, run by Denne Construction Company, was established on site to allow young people to get hands-on experience in construction.

The project was one of the first in the country to pilot the Homes and Community Agency's employment and skills guidance, to help housing providers put into practice employment and skills activities on their projects.

Achievements of the skills centre included:

- Denne staff spent an afternoon with six trainees at the Ridge-way Skills Centre in Southborough to discuss issues about getting work in the construction industry, with a view to a possible placement at the Simmonds Court project.

- Denne worked with K College in Tonbridge to identify local students who wanted to become plumbing or carpentry apprentices. After identifying a number of possible candidates, interviews were carried out and three plumbing candidates and two carpentry candidates were invited to undertake work experience placements. This involved each student working on site for a week during five separate placements. At the end of the placements two plumbing apprenticeships and two carpentry

apprenticeships were awarded.

- An enterprise day, featuring construction and civil engineering, was delivered to 160 pupils from Year 10 at Hayesbrook School. They took part in a series of hands-on workshops throughout the day.

- Year 9 students at Hayesbrook School took part in a construction challenge workshop, competing to build the highest tower in the least amount of time using the fewest bricks. The challenge involved planning a construction strategy, and incorporating material costs and time delays.

- Twelve students from Hayesbrook School also visited the Denne construction site as part of school engagement activities.

They got a safety induction

and learnt about careers in construction, a workshop on how

Denne is working

with Town & Country to build the housing in Rusthall, and brick laying contractor Maybrooks Brick-

laying was on hand to answer students' questions and gave all the students a bricklaying demonstration.

- Denne made an arrangement with MidKent College for one student, studying towards a foundation degree in construction, to have a work placement on the Simmonds Court Site.

Town & Country's development director Colin Lissenden said: "I am delighted we could work in partnership with Denne to run this Skills Centre and give over 100 young people an insight into the construction industry and for many a first taste of what it would be like to work in such an environment."



BUILD: Students from Hayesbrook School enjoyed a tour of the building site

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Career convention aiming to raise young people's work aspirations

YOUNG people will have opportunity to meet and talk with employers, universities and training providers from 20 employment sectors at a Career Convention being held in Medway this month.

Organised by young people's charity, Medway Youth Trust, the event will provide information, advice and guidance on careers ranging from accountancy to healthcare and engineering to hair and beauty.

Medway Youth Trust chief

executive Graham Clewes said: "With rising unemployment amongst young people and growth in the economy very flat, it is vital we create opportunities for young people across Medway and further afield to meet with employers, universities and training providers face to face, give them chance to ask questions, develop new ideas and raise aspirations."

The free event is being held at the Pilkington Building, University of Greenwich at

Chatham Maritime from 10am-6pm on Wednesday, December 7. The first two hours are for Year 6 pupils only.

During the afternoon, businesses will be providing bite-sized workshops about careers, entry and progression routes within their industry and sector for young people aged 11-19.

If any schools would like to find out more, contact Nadia Shalan on 01634 334343 or email nadia.shalan@mytcon-nexions.org.uk.

Pupils give teachers a lesson in the digital revolution

STUDENTS are being encouraged to help extend the use of technology in the classroom.

A team of 'Digital Leaders' has been created at The Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs to have their say in what happens with IT throughout the school's learning programme.

It gives students the chance to make a difference to their education by observing how lessons are taught and suggesting ways that learning could become more appealing and effective through digital technology.

Following an introductory workshop at the University of Kent, eight students are now working with a range of programmes including Prezi which is a new look at how to stage Powerpoint presentations, Wordle which is used in English, and Pixton which enables comic storyboards to be created on screen to illustrate and impart information.

Marnie Gander and Ellen Berry-McIntosh, both 14, are Digital Leaders. Marnie said: "Working from textbooks can be a bit boring. Using digital resources makes learning more exciting and more relevant to students who use digital communica-



DIGITAL LEADERS: Pupils Elizabeth Smith and Marnie Gander of The Charles Dickens School

tions in just about every other part of their lives.

"It will help teachers put together lessons in a way that is more engaging for us. The message is 'don't be a digital dinosaur'."

Ellen added: "We used Pixton to create a comic strip to deliver topics in health and safety. It was fun, creative and we enjoyed learning. You can also log onto the internet to finish your work at home so it encourages you to do more."

Lee Sennett, director of E-learning at the school, said: "This project benefits students and teachers and is an innovative way to teach and learn. It produces stimulating lessons."

Headteacher Andrew Olsson said: "It is a great idea that puts teachers at the other end of learning through student evaluation and input, and also enables students to see their lesson content and delivery from a different perspective."

New qualification helps students prepare for university and work

STUDENTS at Canterbury's Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School Sixth Form are being offered the chance to add a new qualification to their bow, with the launch of the AQA Baccalaureate (AQA Bac).

The AQA Bac is an academic qualification comprising three A-levels, independent learning through the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), personal development through activities such as work-related learning or community participation, and

personal development through an AS level in critical thinking.

Assistant headteacher Mark Perrian said: "The AQA Bac has been launched at SLGGS to ensure the education of our students doesn't just cater for their academic success but also equips them for the challenges that their future careers will hold."

"The school hopes this extra qualification will show universities and employers our students are talented and capable of smooth progression to higher education

and the world of work."

The introduction of the AQA Bac is the beginning of a process at the school. "We have students who enter just about every profession and career. We have to look for ways to ensure they can prepare for that diversity and can further those skills that make them better students, but also better citizens. We want students to feel it's the success they achieve in all areas of their sixth form experience that will help them in their next steps" said Mr Perrian.

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Support Worker

required NVQ2/3 experience with learning disabilities. Weekends plus sleep ins. Recent CRB an advantage.

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JOB TITLE Registered Nurses x 2 also recruiting Bank Nurses

LOCATION: Maurice House

HOURS/DAYS OF WORK: One 37.5 hours Full time Day Duty and One 10.25 Night Duty (21.00-7.15am) to cover rota.

SALARY: £12.17 per hour

A new opportunity has arisen for two Registered Nurses to support residents within our nursing department.

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JOB TITLE Administration Assistant

LOCATION: Maurice House

HOURS/DAYS OF WORK: 12 hours flexible rota to cover 3 days (4 hours per shift) will include some Saturdays

SALARY: £7.32 per hour

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JOB TITLE Care Assistants Day and Night Shifts

Also recruiting Bank Care Assistants

LOCATION: Maurice House

HOURS/DAYS OF WORK: Night Duty 21.00-07.00 1 post 3 x nights, 2 posts x 2 nights 35 hours per week day duty full time and part time 21 hours

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Your role will be to work as a team member in delivering high quality person centred care in a way that respects the dignity of the individual promoting independence and wellbeing.

We are seeking good team players who have experience of working with a vulnerable client group and are committed to delivering the highest standards of care. You should have a good standard of general education, and ideally hold an NVQ level 2 /3 or be willing to work towards the QCF equivalent.

If you would like to apply for these roles, please visit our website www.britishlegion.org.uk to download an application form to complete and email to mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk or collect a job description and an application form from the home and post or deliver to Maurice House The Royal British Legion Callis Court Road Broadstairs Kent CT10 3AH no later than 16th December 2011

Please note that CVs are not accepted and we are not seeking the assistance of Recruitment Agencies to help us with this vacancy.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the closing date.



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Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.
Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.
Closing date: Friday 9th December 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

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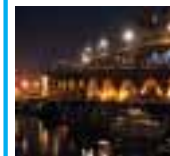
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Career opportunities at MidKent College

Director of Planning and Funding

Ref: DIRP

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Closing date: Monday 12th December.

For an initial discussion please contact our retained consultant, Ken Pullan on 07725128661 or e mail your CV to ken.Pullan@midkent.ac.uk Initial shortlisting interviews will be conducted by Ken Pullan. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed formally on Monday, 19th December.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Deputy to Head of Service

Ref: DHS01

Salary: £36,080 - £39,715 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway and Maidstone Campus

This new role has been developed to ensure successful performance of the faculty in the changing educational landscape and to move it from good to outstanding.

We are looking for an experienced and 'can do' person to support the Head of Faculty in the operational leadership of our Foundation Learning and Learning Support departments

The successful candidate will be a qualified teacher with up to date experience in post 16 education and teaching, ideally in Foundation Learning and/or Additional Learning support. He or she will be a good communicator and have experience of managing a team.

Lecturer in Plumbing

Ref: P0396

Salary: £24,146 - £30,718 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic, highly motivated and well-organised lecturer to join our Plumbing department in the Faculty of Construction and Building Services. The successful candidate will be required to teach and assess on Plumbing/Heating - Building Services Engineering up to Level 2:3. Candidates will need to be qualified as an Advanced Plumber/Gas installer with significant practical experience in the BSE industry. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised assessor and teaching qualification.

Personal Tutor

Ref: P0582

Salary: £20,724 - £26,702 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway
Interview Date: Thursday 15 December 2011

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a group tutorial programme and carry out effective 1:1 tutorials with students to monitor their academic progress and social development. You will contribute to supporting the retention and achievement of our learners and the development of students' employability and interpersonal skills within the framework of the BTEC WorkSkills Award. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

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Ref: P0071

Salary: £18,759 - £24,045 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway and Maidstone Campus

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Ref: P0070

20 hours per week - fixed term Maternity Cover
Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to appoint a confident individual to provide administration support for examinations in liaison with the examinations coordinator and to provide examination administrative support to academic faculties. The successful candidate will have Good organisational and administrative skills and have experience of working within an office environment or a qualification equivalent.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: P0006

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages to join the Construction and Engineering team. The successful candidate will have experience of working within an administrative role.

Closing date: Friday 9 December 2011

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.



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Independent Appeals Panel Members

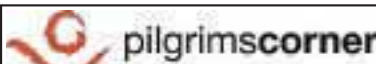
Applications are invited for volunteers to become Panel Members serving on an Independent Education Appeal Panel, mainly in May 2012. Full training will be given in early January and expenses paid. Successful applicants will be one of three panel members hearing appeals for admission. Qualifications comprise an interest in education, good team work, decision-making and inter-personal skills.

For further details and to register your interest, please contact
Ms T. Williamson, PA to Headteacher
Tel: 01622 726683
or e-mail twilliamson@opgs.org
Closing date: 9th December 2011

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Closing date: 11 December 2011

Interview Date: 19 December 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SH/0474/2011 - Proposed development at Unit W, Lympe Industrial Park, Otterpool Lane, Lympe, Hythe, Kent, CT21 4LR

Keith Cornell (Waste Paper) Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for retrospective planning application for the change of use of site from general B1, B2 and B8 to a materials recycling facility (sui generis use) and to increase the height of the adjoining acoustic fence by one metre to 6.5 metres in height.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 4 December 2011



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 11/03569/FUL Oast House At Park Farm, Capel**
- Conversion of Oast House to detached dwelling - amendments to elevations and internal arrangement (TW/10/00970 refers) (LB)
- 11/03571/LBC Oast House At Park Farm, Capel**
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of Oast House to detached dwelling - amendments to elevations and internal arrangement (TW/10/00971 refers) (LB)
- 11/03368/FUL Sissinghurst Cricket Club King George V Field, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Replacement of existing outdoor all weather cricket practice net and addition of second strip (LB)
- 11/03482/HOUSE Curtisden Green Farmhouse Curtisden Green Lane, Goudhurst**
- Retrospective - Combined garden store, potting shed, log store and attached pergola; Extension of existing terrace; Garden walls and paths (LB)
- 11/03451/FUL Furnace Mill Farmhouse Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use of land to tennis court with associated fencing (LB)
- 11/03557/FUL Manor Farm Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Retrospective: Improvements to existing access consisting of new splays and surfacing of existing farm track (PROW)
- 11/03562/FUL Hawkbrand House Longbrooks Farm, Paddock Wood**
- Change of use of former farm office building to B1 offices and domestic garages/storage (retrospective) (LB)
- 11/03313/FUL 75 - 77 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Glass canopy above front entrance door (LB) (CA)
- 11/03498/FUL 102 Calverley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Change of use from A1 shop to tanning shop (Sui Generis) (LB) (CA)
- 11/03509/FUL Ganderhay Camden Park, Park**
- Demolition of existing 3 bed house and erection of new dwelling with detached garage (CA)
- 11/03512/CAC Ganderhay Camden Park, Park**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing 3 bed house (CA)
- 11/03501/HOUSE 13 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall**
- Demolition of existing garage and erection of single-storey side extension (CA)
- 11/03502/CAC 13 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall**
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing garage (CA)
- 11/03523/FUL Beulah Lodge Rest Home 1 Beulah Road, St James**
- New parking and turning area to front of property with new access to highway (LB) (CA) (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting A Conservation Area (LB) Affecting A Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgegates.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by e-mail to planningcomments@tunbridgegates.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN11 1RS
Dated: 03 December 2011

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/11/01868/ADV: 2-3 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AT** Non-illuminated replacement signage. **Applicant: Tasty PLC**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01884/FUL: 38B St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BY** Demolition of single garage and erection of a detached dwelling house. **Applicant: Mr Johns** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01906/FUL: St Mildreds Tannery, Block F, Old Watling Street, Canterbury** Change of use of ground floor from two retail units to two flats (Use Class C3) including infill side extension. **Applicant: Bellway Home Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01912/ADV: 1 Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HP** Illuminated fascia sign and projecting sign. **Applicant: Pizza Express**
Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01913/FUL: Hazel Cottage, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NY** Alterations to existing rear extension including a replacement roof and new rear external wall. **Applicant: Mrs Bartlett** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/11/01935/FUL: Land between Studds Farm and 5 Studds Cottages, Whitstable Road, Herne Bay, CT6 8BJ** Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/08/1154/HBA for erection of Age Concern Centre with associated parking, highway and landscaping works in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: Age UK** Reason: Contrary to the development plan.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 26 December 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration

Friday 2 December 2011

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

- MA/11/1510/S - SPRINGFIELD, SALTS LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BD** - Engineering works to construct a parking space off Salts Lane. **Reason: 2**
- MA/11/1538/S - THE GEORGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6EJ** - Development and conversion of outbuildings to create one new family dwelling. **Reason: 1, 2**
- MA/11/1539/S - THE GEORGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6EJ** - Conservation Area Consent for development and conversion of outbuildings to create one new family dwelling. **Reason: 4**
- MA/11/1907/S - THE OAST HOUSE, ELY COURT, GOUDHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0HB** - Application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission MA/08/2100 for conversion of redundant oast house to three bedroom dwelling and adjacent land to residential use. **Reason: 1**
- MA/11/1909/N - LAND ADJACENT THE COTTAGE, SUTTON STREET, BEARSTED, BEARSTED, KENT, ME14 4HP** - Erection of a detached dwelling. **Reason: 7**
- MA/11/1923/S - SLADE HOUSE, PICKERING STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9RH** - Listed building consent for first floor internal alterations being the conversion of original single room currently subdivided to provide 3 bathrooms into 2 bathrooms. **Reason: 3**
- MA/11/1937/S - ALBION INN, CHURCH STREET, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4HW** - Erection of two detached dwellings. **Reason: 1, 2**
- MA/11/1938/S - ALBION INN, CHURCH STREET, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4HW** - Erection of a detached two bedroom house. **Reason: 1, 2**
- MA/11/1941/S - BARLING FARM, EAST SUTTON ROAD, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3DX** - An application to replace existing permission reference MA/08/2391 (Removal of existing portable buildings and part demolition of existing commercial building; and erection of an extension to provide replacement office/ storage/ workshop space). **Reason: 1**
- MA/11/1943/S - D K HOLDINGS LTD SITE AT, STATION APPROACH, STAPLEHURST, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 0QN** - Erection of 3,044m2 factory unit and associated car parking and access. **Reason: 1, 6**
- MA/11/1944/S - GMS & D K HOLDINGS SITE AT, STATION APPROACH, STAPLEHURST, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 0QN** - Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide new (Use Class A1) food store with associated car parking, landscaping and access. **Reason: 1, 6, 9**
- MA/11/1948/S - MONKS LAKES, STAPLEHURST ROAD, MARDEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 9BU** - Part retrospective planning application for the retention of two lakes known as Bridges and Puma and works to create 3 additional lakes all for recreational fishing, erection of clubhouse building and associated works and landscaping. **Reason: 3, 6, 8**
- MA/11/1968/N - MAIDSTONE STUDIOS, VINTERS PARK, NEW CUT ROAD, MAIDSTONE** - Application to extend the time limit for the implementation of planning permission MA/07/0458 for the demolition of existing buildings and structures, the erection of one hundred and forty-two dwellings and associated landscaping, formation of new car park to service Maidstone Studios, formation of new emergency access and associated works. **Reason: 6**
- MA/11/1980/S - 3, WALNUT TREE COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HX** - An application for the prior approval of the local planning authority for the installation of 1no equipment cabinet to replace existing. **Reason: 1, 2**
- Reasons for advertisement key:**
- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
 - 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
 - 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
 - 4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
 - 5 - Application is Major Development.
 - 6 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
 - 7 - Application is the subject of an Environmental Assessment.
 - 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.
- Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **18th December 2011**, quoting the application number.
- Rob Jarman**, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 4th December 2011



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HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ESSELLA ROAD, ASHFORD) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all the other enabling powers, propose to make an order, the effects of which would be to:-

Introduce a 20mph speed limit in Essella Road, Ashford from a point 31m from its junction with Mabledon Avenue south-eastwards throughout its remaining length.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to the Traffic Schemes and MHF Manager at Kent Highway Services, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk stating the name of the order and your reasons, by not later than 12 noon on 30 December 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

CHARTHAM HATCH LEVEL CROSSING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chartham Hatch Level Crossing, on or after 19 December 2011 as shown below.

The planned closure times are as follows

Monday 19 December at 23.59 hours until Tuesday 20 December 2011 at 06.00 hours

Tuesday 20 December at 23.59 hours until Wednesday 21 December 2011 at 06.00 hours.

Hatch Lane, Chartham will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Howfield Lane and Town Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

HOADEN LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway subsidence, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hoaden Lane, Ash, on or after 5 December 2012.

At this stage, it is not known how soon a solution can be found, but it is hoped that the road can be re-opened by the end of March 2012.

The road is closed between the junctions of Elmstone Road and Overland Lane.

The alternative route is via Elmstone Road, Church Hill, Sheerwater Road and Hoaden Lane.

THE STREET, FINGLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Finglesham, on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Broad Lane and Marley Lane.

The alternative route is via Broad Lane and Marley Lane.

UPPER STRAND STREET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Upper Strand Street, Sandwich, on or after 6 December 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

It is planned that these works will be carried out between the hours of 7.30 am until 4.00 pm day, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Fisher Street and Knightrider Street.

The alternative route is via High Street, The Quay and Knightrider Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, DEAL AREA (RAILWAY BRIDGE INSPECTIONS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of railway bridge inspections, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Deal area, on or after 19 December 2011, as shown below.

The roads below will each be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridges, from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

PARK AVENUE, DEAL will be closed on Monday 19 December 2011

The alternative route is via Mill Road, A258 Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, Prince of Wales Terrace, Deal Castle Road (Victoria Road and Ranelagh Road in reverse) and Gifford Road.

SOMERSET ROAD, DEAL will be closed on Tuesday 20 December

The alternative route is via Telegraph Road, Cornwall Road and Downs Road

STATION ROAD, MARTIN MILL will be closed on Wednesday 21 December

The alternative route is via East Langdon Road, The Street and Lucerne Lane

WHITE HILL, LANGDON will be closed on Thursday 22 December

The alternative route is via Solton Lane, A258 Deal Road, Hangman's Lane, The Street, East Langdon Road and White Hill.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SANDWAY, BOUGHTON MALHERBE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandway from Boughton Road running south for approximately 150m on or after Monday 5th December 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Boughton Road, Lenham Heath Road, Bowley Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new telegraph pole. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Louise Skull on 0370 0500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) AMENDMENT 10 ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1 (1) 2 (1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1) 45, 46, 49, and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The Order will amend the Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Waiting Restrictions Consolidation 2008 Order by introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in Maidstone:

Hubbards Lane Boughton Monchelsea	West	From a point 20m north of its junction with Heath Road for a distance of 41m in a northerly direction
Hubbards Lane Boughton Monchelsea	East	From a point 29m north of its junction with Heath Road for a distance of 126m in a northerly direction
Heath Road Boughton Monchelsea	North	From a point in line with the junction of Hubbards Lane in a easterly direction for a distance of 40m
Heath Road Boughton Monchelsea	North	From a point in line with the junction of Hubbards Lane in a westerly direction for a distance of 32m

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under sections 1 (1) 2 (1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1) 45, 46, 49, and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling

powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The Order is necessary for safety reasons and will make stopping on the 'School Keep Clear' zig zag markings on the following lengths of road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 9.00am and from 14.30pm to 16.00pm an infringement which may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

Hubbards Lane, Boughton Monchelsea across the frontage of Cornwallis School for its entire length.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) (AMENDMENT NO. 7) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1 (1) 2 (1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1) 45, 46, 49, and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The Order will amend the Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Waiting Restrictions Consolidation 2008 Order by introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in Maidstone:

Beaconsfield Road (North/South Arm)	West	From a point 30m north of its junction with Church Road for a distance of 30m in a northerly direction
Beaconsfield Road (North/South Arm)	East	From a point 15m north of its junction with Church Road for a distance of 10m in a northerly direction
Eccleston Road	East	From a point 25m north of the junction with Tovil Road for its entire length.
Eccleston Road	West	From a point 25m north of the junction with Tovil Road for a distance of 12 m in a northerly direction
		From a point 69m north of the junction with Tovil Road for its entire length and to include the new school refuse collection area
Stafford Gardens	Both Sides	From the junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6m in an easterly direction
Cornhill Place	Both Sides	From the junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6m in an easterly direction
Arundel Square	Both Sides	From the junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6m in an easterly direction

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 9th January 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS) (VARIATION NO. 2) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under

sections 1 (1) 2 (1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1) 45, 46, 49, and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The Order is necessary for safety reasons and will make stopping on the 'School Keep Clear' zig zag markings on the following lengths of road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 9.00am and from 14.30pm to 15.30pm an infringement which may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

1. Beaconsfield Road (North/South Arm) Tovil East Side

From a point 32 metres north of its junction with Church Road for a distance of 38 metres in a northerly direction.

2. Eccleston Road, Tovil West Side

From a point 37 metres north of the junction with Tovil Road for a distance of 32 metres in a northerly direction.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 9th January 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON THE FOOTWAY OR VERGE) (VARIATION NO 1) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1 (1) and (2), 2 (1) to 3, 3 (2) and 4 and part IV of Schedule 9 section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting or stopping on the Footway or Highway Verge on the following lengths of road:-

MAIDSTONE

Poplar Grove On both sides from the junction with A20 London Road to the junction with Hazelwood Drive

Maxwell Drive Entire length both sides

The Order was Sealed on 1st December 2011 and will come into force on 5th December 2011

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

HILDERS LANE, EDENBRIDGE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hilders Lane for a 5m Section outside Ashcombe Cottage.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



The Order will become effective on 4th December 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 05 December 2011 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Main Road/Station Road, Stangrove Road, Crouch House Road, Little Browns Lane and vice versa.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate road excavation and repair defective drainage pipe work within carriageway, backfill and reinstate.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

WEST PARADE, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the use of a mobile crane to lift materials onto a property development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Parade, Hythe, on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Stade Street and Victoria Road.

The alternative route is via Stade Street, Arthur Road and Victoria Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

CLOCK HOUSE LEVEL CROSSING, BOUGHTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clock House Level Crossing, Boughton, as shown below.

The planned closure times are as

Wednesday 21 December 2011 at 23.59 hours until Thursday 22/12/2011 at 06.00 hours

Thursday 22 December 2011 23.59 hours until Friday 23 December 2012 at 06.00 hours

Sunday 22 January 2012 at 01.50 hours until Monday 23 January 2012 at 04.10 hours

Clockhouse Lane, Boughton will be closed at the Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Clockhouse Lane, Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

HARTY FERRY ROAD, OARE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of filming on the highway, Kent County Council has made an Order to close Harty Ferry Road, Oare and Public Footpath ZR234 on or after 6 December 2011 for up to 1 day between 7.00 am and 9.00 pm.

HARTY FERRY ROAD will be closed to the north of Harty Ferry Cottages.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR234 will be closed from the junction with Harty Ferry Road as follows

Westwards for a distance of approximately 310 metres to National Grid Reference TR 010 649

Eastwards for a distance of approximately 215 metres to National Grid reference TR 014 646.

There is no alternative route for the Footpath closure.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

ALBERT STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Albert Street, Ramsgate, on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of numbers 41 to 57.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Addington Street and Hertford Street.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, West Cliff Road and Hertford Street.

It is planned that the road will be re-opened during the Christmas period.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A26 QUARRY HILL ROAD, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by northbound traffic on A26 Quarry Hill Road at the A21 viaduct on or after Monday 5th December 2011 for a period of up to 6 nights between 20.00hrs and 05.00hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via the A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road.

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald for the Highways Agency apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to investigate half joints and drainage on the viaduct. For further information or comment please call Nithiy Myuran on 0203 4332128.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LUCKS LANE, PADDOCK WOOD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lucks Lane outside of "Little Howlands" on or after Monday 19th December 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane, Queen Street.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to adjust a frame and cover, reinstate outlet pipe and reinstate the carriageway. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 4th December 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Marriot Tudor Park Hotel, Ashford Road, Bearsted, Maidstone**
Applicant: **Russel Storey**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Salmestone Grange, Nash Road, Margate**
Applicant: **William Whelan**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Abbey Hotel, The Broadway, Minster, Isle of Sheppey**
Applicant: **Sukha Veja Odedra**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



Notice is given that Kewal Singh Randawa of 58, Cuxton Road, Strood ME2 2DA has applied to Gravesend Borough Council for the Grant of off licence Monday to Sunday, Sale of Alcohol: 08:00 until 23:00 for the premises Food + Wine + situated at 152, Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.graveham.gov.uk/licensing> or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Tel 01474 337334 by appointment with the licensing team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 16th Dec 2011. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representation will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representation will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

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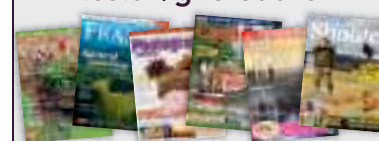
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

DADSON

Theo James born on 19th November 2011, weighing 5lbs 6oz. Son to Kerry and Sally Dadson of Maidstone.

HOLLAND

Tracey and Paul would like to announce the birth of their son, Harry Richard Holland, born 20th October 2011 weighing 9lb 5oz.

SZCZEPANIK

Alex Jan born on 11th November 2011 weighing 2850g. Son to Aleksandra and Pawel of Maidstone.

WALCOTT

Hayley Curran and Anthony Walcott of

Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Tyrese Jayden Walcott on 8th November 2011.

WARNER

Chloe and Mark celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Madeleine Daisy Warner born 12th November 2011 at Pembury, weighing 9lb 3oz.

DEATHS

BALL

Nella Ball passed away peacefully on 23rd November. For funeral arrangements contact Co-op Funeral Directors, Dartford 01322 220006.

BRIXEY

Frances Mary Brixey, of

Greenhithe formerly of Annan Scotland passed away on 23rd November 2011 aged 55 years. Funeral enquiries and donations to Stephen P Gay Funeral Service 01474 700194.

COOK

Bramwell Cook of Ramsgate died peacefully on 17th November 2011. Funeral Service at Margate Salvation Army Citadel Union Crescent Margate at 12.00 on 29th November 2011. Enquiries to Gore Brothers Margate 01843 223534

NASH

John Andrew Nash of Dartford died peacefully on 13th November 2011 aged 82.

To place your notice here call the
Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW305 IN THE PARISH OF KINGSNORTH**

**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW305)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath AW305, between the car park at Kingsnorth Pavilion (NGR TR 005 393) and the junction with Public Footpath AW306, near Bridle Way Lane (NGR TR 005 395) from 25th November 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 1st March 2011.

The path is to be closed to enable the completion of surface improvements and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via the recreation ground between the Pavilion and Bridle Way Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Colin Finch

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER**

**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB177 (PART) ICKHAM & WELL)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011**

On 17th November 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert that length of Public Footpath CB177 which commences on the A257 Wingham Road at TR 2137 5722 (point A) and runs south-eastwards for 119 metres to TR 2144 5712 (point B) to a new length of Public Footpath CB177 with a width of 2.5 metres which commences on the A257 Wingham Road at TR 2138 5722 (point C), 12.5 metres east-south-east of the aforementioned point A, and runs southwards for 51 metres, thence east-south-eastwards for 81 metres, and thence south-south-westwards for 23 metres to the aforementioned point B.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Kent County Council Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 17th November 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 4th December 2011, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER**

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE351 EYTHORNE)**

**PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011**

On 14 November 2011 Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to delete the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered EE351 which commences at NGR TR 2856 4889 (point A) on the Order Plan, and continues in a north north-easterly direction for 170 metres to NGR TR 2862 4905 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dover District Council, Dover Gateway, Church Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PD or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 12 December 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 04 December 2011, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER**

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE477 EYTHORNE)**

**PUBLIC PATH CREATION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011**

On 14 November 2011 Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to create a new length of Public Footpath numbered EE477 with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TR 2864 4885 (Point C) on the Order plan, and continues in a north north-easterly direction for 188 metres to NGR TR 2872 4903 (Point D). Between points C-D on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dover District Council, Dover Gateway, Church Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1PD or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 12 December 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 04 December 2011, make an application to the High Court.

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF
TONBRIDGE & MALLING****NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER**

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

**DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF
KENT**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS
MT417 & MT418, HILDENBOROUGH)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011**

The above Order was made on 14 November 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding:-

Public Footpath MT417 which commences at its junction with Public Bridleway MT52 at NGR TQ 5801 4929 (Point A) and runs in a south south westerly direction for 37 metres, west south westerly for 24 metres thence south westerly for 294 metres to NGR TQ 5781 4901 (Point B). The path then turns to run in a south south easterly through south easterly direction for 320 metres to its connection with Public Footpath MT37 (at a point 10 metres north of the foot bridge) at NGR TQ 5798 4876 (Point C). The path has a width of 1.5 metres.

Public Footpath MT418 which commences at its connection with Public Bridleway MT52 at NGR TQ 5816 4920 (Point D) and runs in a south south westerly direction to the north western side of the boundary for 138 metres to its connection with Public Footpath MT37 at NGR TQ 5811 4908 (Point E). The path has a width of 2.6 metres.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 20 January 2012. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF
TUNBRIDGE WELLS****NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER**

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

**DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE FORMER
EXCLUDED AREA OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH WBX19 AT
TUNBRIDGE WELLS)**

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2010

On 4th October 2011 an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above Order with modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath which commences on St James' Road and running in a north-westerly direction for 55 metres before turning in a north north-easterly direction for 20 metres to its connection with Grosvenor Park (Between the points A and B on the Order Plan). The path has a width of 2.5 metres for the first 55 metres from St James' Road, and 2.8 metres for the next 20 metres.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 4th October 2011 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 4th December 2011 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53**

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine

Kent County Council
(Public Footpath ZR175, Bredgar) Sheets o85 (TQ85NE)
& o88 (TQ86SE)
Definitive Map Modification Order 2010

and will attend at:

**Tunstall Village Memorial Hall, Tunstall Road, Tunstall,
Kent, ME10 1YZ**

On Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 10.00am

To hold a public local inquiry into the Order

The effect of the Order, if confirmed without modifications, will be to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath commencing at the junction of Deans Bottom (U11054) and Kennel Barn Road (U1922), (point A) and running in a generally southerly direction for approximately 362.7 metres, to its connection with the existing length of public footpath ZR175 (point B). (Between the points A and B on the Order Plan).

The path has a width of 2 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to this Order may do so by appointment at Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. The documents can be viewed Monday - Friday between 10.00 and 16:00 (Please telephone Mrs Maria McLaughlan on 01622 696871 to make an appointment).

Planning Inspectorate Reference: FPS/W2275/7/62

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate:
Clive Richards, Room 4/05, Kite Wing, Temple Quay
House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.

Tel: 0117 372 8626

Email: clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk


**Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX**

Dated: 4th December 2011

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

**For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess**






YOUR PUBLIC IS OUR PUBLIC

To place your legal notices

call **01303 817056** or email **sallie.payne@archant.co.uk**





Join in the
fun with a
Crooner's
Christmas

SEE PAGE 41



**NASTY
NICK!**

Big Brother's
anti-hero takes
to the stage

SEE PAGE 46

Kent Weekend



Christmas magic

Reindeer tracks
and visits to Santa
keep little ones
entertained

SEE PAGE 48

PLUS: Help yourself to a good meal - **food and drink p42** Developers are united in their successful home-building - **property p50** BMW expands the boundaries of space and style with the new 3-Series - **driving p57**



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Sorry, not suitable for children.

Let's make a song and dance about Christmas

MUSICIAN Bob Drury is set to perform at six venues across Kent this festive season as he takes his A Crooner's Christmas show on the road, writes Nick Ames.

Drury, who has performed as a solo singer-guitarist and band leader and also runs his own Neil Diamond show, will be accompanied by members of his family, including daughters Cleo and Harriet.

He will be performing traditional, popular and modern Christmas numbers to appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

Drury, who lives in Seabrook, said: "Every year I found myself harping on that 'Christmas is just not what it used to be...' This year I thought it was about time I got off the fence and tried to do something about it.

"This performance is about people's memories of the Christmases they enjoyed in their younger days in the main – although the show will have plenty for younger people as well.

"But Christmas past is certainly a theme. I want to trigger the associations of my audience with times gone by."

The first half of his set will involve a mock-up of his lounge with musical accompaniment as

children get ready for Christmas. Special guests will come on to the stage amid the festivities to perform, along with dancers.

The second half of the show will see songs from the 1960s to the present day performed.

"I've been in the business for years," said Drury. "But this came about after a show I played a couple of years ago at a restaurant in Hythe. I performed some numbers in the Dean Martin and Bing Crosby style and they went down really well. Everyone was singing along and so I thought I would turn the concept into a theatrical show.

"I want to appeal to as wide a range of people as possible so we have songs from the traditional crooner's repertoire and then popular seasonal hits such as songs by Slade and Mike Oldfield. To bring it right up to date, there is a number from Adele.

"We have a special appearance by Rudy the Rude Boy Reindeer who is a delinquent teenager trying to mess up Santa's plans. He has his own song, sung to the well-known Rudolph tune. That's one for the younger audience members."

Drury's eldest daughter Cleo, who manages the local Age Concern facilities, is arranging the dancing for the show.

"I've had quite a bit of experience performing," she said. "And I still keep my hand in. One thing I do is organise shows for the clients who I am involved with at Age Concern. It's great to be able to bring people in and connect the young and the old."

Her young sister Harriet is also in the show – performing some songs and currently juggling rehearsal time with that of the Folkestone pantomime in which she also performs.

Drury has an extensive background in music; originally working extensively after teaching himself, he went on to study classical guitar at Canterbury Christ Church University College.

He graduated with a masters degree in music performance in 1999 and has since performed at many events including music festivals, weddings, special dinners and restaurant theme evenings.

Back in 2007 he launched his solo Neil Diamond tribute show, A Diamond Experience,



Picture: PAUL JERRETT

TOGETHER: Rudy the Rude Boy Reindeer is to perform with Bob Drury, along with Harriet and Davina

– possibly his most popular act with numbers such as Cracklin' Rosie and Sweet Caroline. The show has been performed at venues throughout the UK and on Mediterranean cruises.

And in his one-man show, A Swing Thing, Drury performs a selection of songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, Nat King Cole, Matt Monro, Michael Bubl , Jamie Cullum, Sammy Davies Junior, Duke Ellington, Tony Bennett, Neil Diamond and Roger Miller.

He said: "I remember secretly listening to the BBC's Light programme at night on an old valve radio that had belonged to my grandfather. I had wired an on-off switch under my pillow in case anyone came into the room and found me out. The sound of Nat King Cole's velvet tones at midnight is still one of the best ways to end a stressful day."

■ To find out more, search 'Crooners Christmas' on the yourkenttv channel of youtube.

Crooner's Christmas shows

Saturday, December 3 - Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone. Tel: 01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

Friday, December 9 - Tower Theatre, Folkestone. Tel: 01303 223925
www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk

Saturday, December 10 - Astor Theatre, Deal. Tel: 01304 381134
www.theastor.org

Thursday, December 15 - The Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks. Tel: 01732 450175
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

Friday, December 16 - Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne. Tel: 01795 471140
www.avenuetheatre.co.uk

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AS WE all know, the mantra for modern consumerism is choice. And the owners of Chom Chom in Canterbury have taken that approach with their restaurant.

Why go to a boring eatery that specialises in one kind of cuisine when you can have the choice of three or even more in one place?

Chom Chom gives the customer the whole range of British popular fare (most of that not being traditional British cooking, of course).

On offer is Indian, Chinese, Thai, Italian and Greek food, along with dishes from a few other countries to add yet more to the selection.

Fine dining it is not. Once shown to your table you are told to take a plate and wander along the various vats of curry, veg and sauces bubbling away on the buffet counter.

When you reach the end you can add pizza or chips to the curry, or deep-fried chicken wings. You can even cover everything in wasabi sauce if you wish.

Once your rather small plate is full you return to your seat to scoff the lot as quickly as you can.

It's not totally primal. The waiters (who don't really wait) kindly take away your plate once it is empty so you can quickly get up and get a clean one. Sometimes they even do it before you have finished.

You can be in mid-conversation chewing on

RESTAURANT REVIEW



an onion ring when a hand descends from over your shoulder to whisk away the china.

To be fair, the food isn't bad. The best bets are the curries, whether Indian or Thai.

The Italian element really comes down to a very plain and boring pizza and a few cold pasta salads.

Surprisingly, the vegetarian choice on the night my partner and I dined (that sounds rather grand for what we actually did) was not great.

At vegetarian Indian buffets I have been to in London the chefs really show off their skills to produce a wide range of dishes.

Perhaps the best part is at the end. The range of desserts and nicely-prepared fruit on offer is good.

I enjoyed some jelly and strawberry mousse, which tasted like Angel Delight. This was topped off by as much as we wanted of that weird swirly ice-cream you get from a van at a country fair.

Actually I got a bit carried away at the dispenser and a wobbly dairy worm ended up overflowing the bowl and across the plate underneath. Not that that stopped me stuffing my face until it was all gone.

I suppose I could have gone one better and just held my mouth under the tap.

It wasn't totally unhealthy – I took a few grapes and a small chunk of watermelon just to make sure I was getting my five a day.

So if you just want food without any frills you could do worse than Chom Chom.

The bill came to £36.74, including a bottle of Italian beer and a sparkling mineral water.

Mind you, I did choke when I saw the £3.34 service charge... considering I did it myself.

Ed Hill

■ **Chom Chom**
10-11 Burgate Lane, Canterbury CT1 2HH
Telephone: 01227 450 200
www.chomchom.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKETS

DARTFORD: The market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month.

EGERTON: This farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stall-holders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall.

MERSHAM: Featuring produce from the immediate area is the market now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

MEOPHAM: This farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

HILDENBOROUGH: Every Tuesday in St John's Church Centre the Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce of high quality at competitive prices.

IWADE: The village hall farmers' market opened in February 2009; it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm, offering fresh seasonal local produce.

■ For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS



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Ticket with 3 course meal £29.00



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Adults £12.50 • Children £9.50 (Aged 3-15)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Britannia Theatre Show Co Presents 'Rule Britannia' Best of Indie TV Filming - Mon 28th Nov
Christmas Jongleurs Friday 2nd December - Sold Out

Porters NYE Party with Curry Buffet & Disco - £25.00

The Valentine Lovers Party Night with Hot Chocolate Performing Live - Fri 10th Feb - £25.00

Time for Tea Music Hall Sensation - Wednesday 22nd February 2012

£5.00 including Cream Tea, Scone & Cucumber Sandwiches

DICKENS BICENTENARY YEAR 2012

Celebrating Dickens - Tuesday 7th February 2012

Dickensians Have Talent - Wednesday 8th February 2012

Mr Fezziwig's Ball - Saturday 11th February 2012



Arthur Christmas 2d (u)	HUGO 2D (U)
Arthur Christmas 3D (u)	Immortals 3D (15)
Dream house(15)	NEW YEAR'S EVE (TBC)
HAPPY FEET 2 2D (U)	THE BIG YEAR (PG)
HAPPY FEET 2 3D (U)	THE THING (15)

TWILIGHT: breaking dawn part 1 (12a)
Tin Tin 2d (pg)

Odeon kids

Horrid henry 2d (u)

SENIOR SCREEN

Crazy, stupid, love (12a)

Newbies

HAPPY FEET 2 2D (U)

The debt (15)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go
to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



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For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Hotel, Isle of Wight - self drive

3 nights semi-all-inclusive
Quote BC1-KOS

WAS £239pp

SALE PRICE £189pp

Fri, 13 to 16 January, 2012

Extend your New Year celebrations at our Carry on New Year party at

Warner's luxurious Bembridge Coast Hotel, on the Isle of Wight.

With a friendly atmosphere this popular Warner hotel serves up a host of seasonal treats and free drinks at a great value-for-money price.

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- Bed, breakfast & 3 course evening meals
- 'New Year's Eve' dinner & countdown party
- Nightly entertainment
- En-suite hotel room - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna



Mamma Mia Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote MP3-KOS

£99pp

16 to 19 March, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned

supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

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- Top Abba Tribute band
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- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation



Carry on New Year Party in Leicestershire

For over 40s only
Bosworth Hall Hotel
Leicestershire

Self drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote CO1-KOS

WAS £109pp

SALE PRICE £99pp

6, 13, 20, 27 Jan & 3 Feb, 2012

Our popular party weekends - for over 40s only, at Bosworth Hall Hotel in the village of Market Bosworth - have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year for a great-value weekend.

INCLUDED:

- 99p drinks from 5pm to 11pm both nights - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 2 nights en-suite hotel room
- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment both nights
- Indoor pool & gym (£4pp per day payable at the hotel)



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- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment
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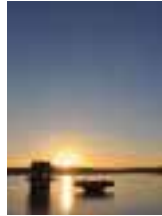
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No 1 Smithery wins awards Design triumph

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Open 10am-4pm
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

A FORMERLY dilapidated historic building at the heart of Chatham's Historic Dockyard has won a second award from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

No 1 Smithery was designed by the dockyard team, the Imperial War Museum and National Maritime Museum to create a site for national treasures and touring exhibitions. The accolade, for "re-use of a redundant building", was awarded to the dockyard building after judges deemed it to have shown excellent elements of ingenuity of design and craftsmanship. It provides touring and permanent galleries for the collections of some 4,000 ship models and educational events.

Christmas like the Georgians Exhibition

Margate Museum
December 10-19 and January 7 to February 26
01843 577000

MARGATE Museum will be marking Christmas with a seasonal look at the town's festive past.

The exhibition will show how Christmas was celebrated in the year that artist JMW Turner came to the area, specifically the Georgian era of 1827.

Alongside the exhibition will be several free performances from Robert Poulter's New Model Theatre on Friday, December 9. These productions will chart the growth of tourism in Margate from the early days of 'sea bathing' up to the modern day. On Saturday, December 17, the East Kent Hoodeners will be acting out a traditional Kentish Midwinter performance that has been practised in the county since the 1730s... a must for any fans of Kentish folklore.



Charity panto gala Boo that Nasty Nick!

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
Friday, December 9, to Monday, January 2
01843 591750
www.granvilleteatre.com

BIG Brother's 'Nasty' Nick Bateman will starring in the special charity gala performance of the Granville Theatre Christmas pantomime. The reality TV star will be appearing in Jack And The Beanstalk throughout the run, starting with the performance on Friday, December 9, when all proceeds will go to the Pilgrims Hospice in Margate and Macmillan Cancer Support. The Mayor of Ramsgate will be at the show, no doubt booing the infamous bad boy of UK reality television – but it's all for a good cause. So get in the Christmas spirit and bring your wallets – tickets are only £10, with all money going to the two worthy causes. The show then continues until Monday, January 2.

Park's list of festive ideas Wild winter

Port Lympne, Hythe
Open 10am-5pm
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

THE Aspinall Foundation has produced a top 10 list of Christmas ideas to suit all budgets. In this list the foundation has covered everything from

passport-entry tickets lasting 12 months, adopting an animal, becoming a keeper for the day or improving your photography skills to an overnight stay in luxury tented accommodation at Livingstone Lodge. The wild animal park near Hythe is also offering dusk safari rides around the African Experience attraction. The Port Lympne passport is £22.95 for an adult or £18.95 for a child and allows you to go to the park as many times as you like in one year. To check the list, visit www.aspinallfoundation.org.



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wilkinson

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£18.74
Prices subject to change



£12
Prices subject to change



JCB Low Loader £10





Magical Chartwell Reindeer and Santa

Chartwell, Westerham

Throughout December
01732 868838
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

THE gardens of Sir Winston Churchill's beloved home, with magnificent views over The Weald, is offering younger visitors the chance to explore a reindeer track that leads them through the woodland estate.

A visit to Mary Churchill's garden playhouse is also essential to write that all-important letter to Father Christmas, who is paying a special two-day visit to Chartwell.

Warm mulled wine and mince pies are available after hikes through the beautiful grounds.

Reindeer winter-tracker walks continue from December 7 to 31, 11am-3pm, at normal admission charge. Santa is in residence on the weekend of December 17-18 from 11am-3pm.

Scrooge with live music A mean show

**Memorial Theatre,
Broadstairs**

December 19-31
0845 2626263

SCROOGE The Pantomime at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs keeps faithfully to the Charles Dickens story, interweaving a pantomime dame, comedy and live music.

The show is produced by Michael Wheatley-Ward, who for many years filled Theatre Royal Margate with his traditional pantomimes, and written by John Goodrum, who also plays the dame and is known for his annual national tours of specialist ghost stories, including the recent production of The Haunted Bride.

For information regarding times and prices, visit www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk. Seats can also be reserved by email at info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.



It's Hansel and Gretel in panto A classic tale

Theatre Royal Margate

December 9-31
0845 1301786
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

PREPARATIONS are under way for the Christmas pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Margate, where Hansel And Gretel will be on stage for December.

So what do you do when there is not enough food to go round? Hansel and Gretel's cruel stepmother thinks she has the answer: send them packing into the wood to get lost! But she doesn't bargain on what happens next.

Families will join Hansel and Gretel on their adventure through the wood and discover the fabulous but deadly gingerbread house, with its icing-sugar roof and walls of fudge. Watch out for the witch looking to make her own dish of the day.

The show comes from the team that brought you Ali Baba and an enchanting Snow Queen last year.

A night of food and fine music Trinity treats

**Trinity Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**

Saturday, December 10
01892 678678

AN EVENING of merriments with festive food, warming drinks and good music will be hosted at the Trinity Theatre next weekend. The evening's festive treats

include spicy hot chocolate and churros as well as Christmas burgers and a hot toddy or two. The music will featuring the Hunting Bears, a five-piece multi-instrumental band based in Leeds, as well as Kino Feuer, the Red Stripe Award-winner, left, and Channel Four's Orange Unsigned Act finalist. Kino Feuer's warm melodies and sombre lyrics will create an intriguing mix. They will also be supporting The Ordinary Boys in December.

Tickets are priced at £5; for more information, you can visit www.trinitytheatre.net.



ROBINSON CRUSOE
and the
CRAZEE CARIBBEAN PIRATES
DECEMBER 15th-30th

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CAROLE BOYD
from THE ARCHERS

NICK BEAT
as Bog
Toll

JOHNNY LEWIS
from
KMF

KEN JOY
as Sarah
the Cook

SERENA SYKES
as Princess
Moonflower

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www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

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£12.00 concessions

Winter Gardens MARGATE

Thanet's Celebrity Pirate Panto

Stars from this year's pantomime, Robinson Crusoe And The Craze Caribbean Pirates, gathered recently at Margate Winter Gardens.

Heading the cast is children's favourite, CITV presenter Joe Challonds. Joe regularly hosts the popular show Prove It!. He'll be hoping for less gunging as Robinson Crusoe!

Also on board is one of radio's best loved voices - Carole Boyd who plays Linda Snell in The Archers. Carole is no stranger to children's entertainment, having provided the voices for all the female characters in Postman Pat.

Also from the world of radio is Johnny Lewis who hosts the morning programme on KMFM.

Local favourites on stage include Serena Sykes as Princess Moonflower and stand-up comedian, Nick Beat.

Robinson Crusoe And The Craze Caribbean Pirates is presented by the same team who brought professional pantomime back to the Winter Gardens last year with their successful production of Cinderella.

Robinson Crusoe And The Craze Caribbean Pirates opens at the Winter Gardens on December 15th and runs until December 30th.

For further information, contact the Winter Gardens box office on 01843 296111.

ROBINSON CRUSOE
and the
CRAZEE CARIBBEAN PIRATES

2-4-1 VOUCHER

	Matinee	Evening
This voucher is valid on these December performances:	21st @ 2.30pm 22nd @ 2.30pm 28th @ 2.30pm 29th @ 2.30pm	21st @ 7.00pm 22nd @ 7.00pm 28th @ 7.00pm 29th @ 7.00pm

Tel: 01843 296111/22225 www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

This voucher is not valid with concessions or on any other offer of special pricing. Voucher can be used to book seats. Expires 31/12/11

The power of believing Festive tale

The Astor Theatre, Deal
Tue to Sat, December 13-17
01304 370220
www.theastor.org

THE Astor Theatre will present its own Christmas performance in association with East Kent Theatre Productions this month. The Littlest Light On The Christmas Tree, set in a time after the Second World War, is a timeless story of wonder and the power of believing. It follows the story of two unforgettable friends, an abandoned Christmas bulb and an eight-year-old boy. This is a story about the Christmas miracle of believing and the power of the human heart. There will be shows each night at 7.30pm and a matinee performance on Saturday, December 17. On Wednesday, December 21, John Cornwall of World Tree Music will perform ancient carols and songs based on Medieval legends performed on the winter solstice.



Snake Davis the Sax Man Funk and soul

Ship Theatre, Sevenoaks
Sunday, December 4, 8pm
01732 740889
www.listeningroom.co.uk

SNAKE Davis, the 'Sax Man', is heading to The Ship Theatre in Sevenoaks. He is widely known for his solos on tracks such as Lisa Stansfield's Change,

M-People's Search For A Hero and Moving On Up and Take That's A Million Love Songs. The Sax Man has also played and recorded with artists ranging from James Brown and Paul McCartney to The Eurythmics and Amy Winehouse. Fresh from his recent appearance on BBC's The One Show, Davis appears at Hollybush Close venue with his own band for another soul-drenched evening of world-class funk. Tickets to this fascinating show are priced at £15.



John Otway reflects The Seventies sound

The Forum, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, December 9
0870 2643333
www.twforum.co.uk

JOHN Otway first achieved notoriety with his eye-watering performance on The Old Grey Whistle Test and subsequent hit single Really Free in 1977. The star and his big band head to the Tunbridge Wells Forum for what is sure to be a rock'n'roll reminder of years gone by. Otway's autobiography Rock and Roll's Greatest Failure outsold, by a factor of ten, all the records he had released since his hit and has helped to push the star back into the mind of the musical public. Otway will be supported by the David Sinclair Trio, plus the local duo Night Without Sleep. Failure will not be an option!

Film charts rich history Barging in...

Royal Cinema, Faversham
Wednesday, December 7, 1pm
Free entry
01795 591211

RED Sails is a documentary that explores the influence of the Thames sailing barge in the development of trade in the UK. Through interviews and

archive footage, the film looks at the Thames barge's contribution to the building of Victorian London. It also looks in detail at the craftsmen and their trades, which made the Thames barge so unique. A few have become barge yachts for chartering, but the Thames barge lives on through the recent restoration of one of the most famous, the Cambria. The first public screening will be free of charge at the Royal Cinema in Faversham, itself a town with a long maritime history. The DVD will be for sale at the showing.



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STUNNING: Central St Giles near Covent Garden

Building firm lands 'greatest accolade'

KENT company United House Developments has won the prestigious Housebuilder Of The Year accolade – the biggest prize in new homes – at the What House? Awards.

In addition to the top title, the company also scooped a total of three gold awards, a silver and a bronze award at the ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel.

United House Developments, based in Swanley, won the best medium housebuilder gold award; two gold awards in partnership

with London Newcastle for its development at Arundel Square in Islington for best exterior design and best landscape design; and silver for best apartment at Central St Giles, the acclaimed Renzo Piano development near Covent Garden.

It also received a bronze best partnership award for regeneration and delivery of new homes with Hounslow council and Hounslow Homes in Beavers Lane, Hounslow.

Now in their 30th year, the What House? Awards with www.whathouse.co.uk are the most coveted and longest-established new-homes awards, celebrating the achievements of housebuilders and developers in the UK, both large and small, across 21 categories.

Rupert Bates, editorial director of whathouse.co.uk, said: "The What House? Awards, considered the Oscars of the housebuilding industry, showcase some of the UK's most exciting and dynamic new developers, as well as highlighting innovations among the industry's big players."

"It is great to see that, even in an extremely tough economic climate, so many housebuilders and developers have sustained their ethos on quality. United House Developments, the residential arm of the United House Group, is one such builder that has not and never will compromise on this and we are proud to have awarded them housebuilding's biggest award."

The judging panel at the What House? Awards said: "We would like to congratulate United House on winning the new-homes industry's greatest accolade."

"In the last year, United House Developments

has delivered 191 units, with a vast price range – from a £130,000 apartment in Hounslow, up to a £5.5 million property at Central St Giles in London. There is more to come, with future developments totalling more than £500m."

United House Developments is the specialist private residential development arm of the United House Group.

Jeffrey Adams, group chief executive, said: "Housebuilder Of The Year is the ultimate accolade and we are delighted the quality of our homes and ability to deliver has been recognised."

"We have a highly-talented and dedicated team who take a bespoke approach to external design and interior specification. Our developments are characterised by outstanding architecture, meticulous attention to detail and a real environmental agenda. Our schemes are delivered by a highly-skilled in-house construction team who are in control and committed to creating the best developments."

"Our strengths have been in our agility and the breadth of our business. Our relationships with key clients in local authorities, housing associations and the private sector continue to go from strength to strength."

Nick Stonley, managing director of United House Developments, said: "Everyone has played a vital part in winning this amazing cache of awards. They are a fantastic team and these awards are testament to their hard work."

"We are building homes in areas where people want to live and breathing new life into those districts through regeneration."

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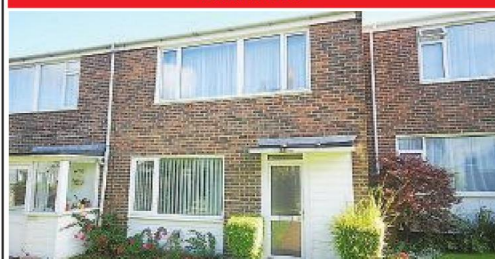
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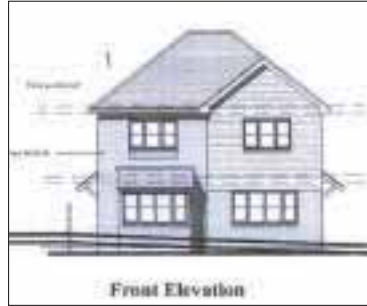
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Tonbridge, Kent **£225,000**

Single plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom house of approximately 1,900 sq ft



Crowborough, East Sussex **£350,000-£375,000**

Site with planning permission for a pair of 2/3 bed semi-detached houses and a terrace of 4 x 3 bed houses



Hawkinge, Kent **£120,000**

Single building plot with planning permission for a single storey detached dwelling

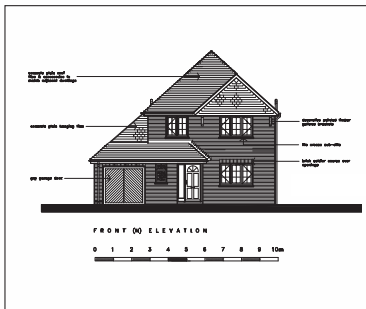


Rye, East Sussex

Site with planning permission for 4 units and an existing 2 bedroom property requiring refurbishment

WANTED

2-3 acre site with potential for a substantial contemporary dwelling up to £750,000 within 10 mile radius of Wadhurst



Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex **£130,000**

Single plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom property of approximately 1,750 sq ft



Hastings, East Sussex **£125,000**

Site with planning for 2 x 2 bed and 1 x 1 bed apartment close to the seafront (2% plus VAT acquisition fee required)



Maidstone, Kent **£235,000**

Single building plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom house of approximately 2,500 sq ft



Greatstone, Kent **£150,000**

Single plot with planning permission for a contemporary detached 2/3 bedroom house with direct sea views

WANTED

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Folkestone, Kent **£350,000**

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Wittersham, Kent **£260,000**

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Lamberhurst Quarter, Kent **£200,000-£225,000**

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Petteridge, Kent **£975,000**

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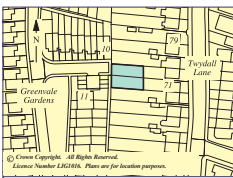
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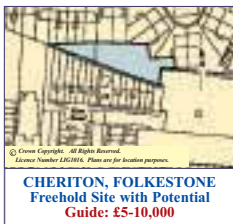
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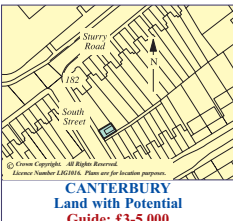
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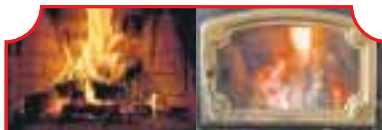
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Take simple steps to keep your home nice and warm

WINTER is the most testing time for the home – and burst pipes, blocked chimneys, icy paths and drives and leaking roofs are all worries as the weather grows colder and the days shorter.

But there are some things that can be done to minimise risks – and help to keep down heating costs.

Consider installing double- or even triple-glazed windows. This can improve the heating system in your house as these can keep the warm air locked in. As an added advantage, they can also help to block out the

sound of roaring wind and pounding rain, keeping the family feeling cosy.

Improved insulation is also a high priority. Make sure your house is installed with wall- and floor-insulating materials to stop the warmth from escaping. Again this is an important way of keeping down heating bills as well as making environmental sense.

Check water pipes. If possible, use thermal blankets to protect drainage lines that are exposed to freezing to avoid accidents as these can be extremely costly and inconvenient.

A cold-weather check on how your

house is going to cope over the coming months is always a good idea, too.

Expert advice is something that can prevent a disaster in the home in the near future – and you'll thank yourself for your foresight and investment if when spring comes no problems have been encountered.

Kent Fire And Rescue Service is issuing a reminder to residents about the importance of getting chimneys swept following a rise in the number of chimney fires.

Since the start of November, fire crews across the county have dealt

with 18 fires involving chimneys and flues, and with colder weather setting in, so is this trend.

With many people lighting open fires and wood-burning stoves for the first time since last winter, any build-up of soot and ash can lead to the chimney or flue catching fire, presenting a real risk to your home.

Head of community safety Stuart Skilton said: "At this time of year we tend to see an increase in chimney fires, and the consequences can be devastating. A fire of this nature can smoulder undetected for some time

and once it takes hold can cause a lot of damage to your property and result in injury to you and your loved ones.

"People need to realise that just three breaths of toxic smoke from a fire in your home can be deadly.

"I would urge residents to get their chimneys and flues checked and swept or cleaned regularly to ensure they are in good working order and fit for use.

"It is also vital to have working smoke alarms fitted to ensure you and your family are alerted in the unfortunate event of fire in the home."

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First **GEAR** MOTORING NEWS

- Ford's latest offering conquers the big screen
- Passat toughens up with Alltrack upgrade
- Skoda registrations break records early



Chevrolet launches its restyled supermini, the Aveo

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk



BACK IN STYLE:

The sixth-generation BMW 3-Series marks a return to good looks for the marque

BMW 3-Series expands boundaries of space

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HE might be gloomy about business, but Company Car Man at least has something to look forward to – the all-new BMW 3-Series arriving in two months' time.

The '3' remains the motor that many a 'user chooser' aspires to, and there's also a queue of people waiting to buy it on the used car market when he's finished with it.

It's the sixth generation of a model launched in the mid-70s to replace the hugely successful 2002 – the car that established BMW as a producer of small driver-pleasing models.

The original 3-Series was up to that task and famed for introducing the driver-orientated dashboard that became a BMW trademark.

It was followed by the pivotal 1980s second generation car, the darling of the yuppies in the Thatcher era.

Subsequent evolutions made the '3' into the perennial UK best seller in the family/compact executive sector, even outselling the Ford Mondeo. The styling has been contentious of late though – along with 'love it or hate it' details across the BMW range generally – but generation six returns to crowd-pleasing lines.

BMW 3-SERIES

Price:
from £24,880

Driving appeal:
★★★★ (expected)

Image:
★★★★★

Space:
★★★★★

Value:
★★★★

Running costs:
★★★★

Reliability:
★★★★★

How green?:
★★★★

Best rival:
Mercedes C-Class

As with so many cars now, it has grown yet shed kilos to deliver greener targets set by markets and governments. BMW says it's cheaper to run, but livelier in performance too, while also delivering better ride comfort without compromising the car's legendary rear-wheel drive handling.

It carries over the classic 3-Series short front overhang, with a 50mm longer wheelbase than before; it might not sound much but translates into the biggest cabin of the generations so far.

It also boasts all the eco-friendly Efficient Dynamics tricks that the German premium marque has adopted, while retaining its image as the Ultimate Driving Machine.

Four engines are offered at launch, with most buyers going for the two-litre diesel options, 184 and 163bhp, but BMW is also making much of an all-new two-litre petrol turbo unit developing 245bhp, lots of low down diesel-style pulling power and offering 0-62mph in under six seconds while averaging in the mid-40s for mpg.

And there's a classic BMW straight-six petrol unit offering three litres and 306bhp plus better emissions and economy than its predecessor.

Order books are open and the car appears in showrooms in early February, from £24,880.

A level playing field on tax for the new hybrid

PEUGEOT dealers are celebrating a victory that has slashed tax bands on the 3008 Hybrid4 diesel-electric crossover arriving in showrooms now, priced from £26,995.

The ruling will also benefit future diesel hybrids from the French marque.

As the first diesel-electric hybrid to hit the UK market, the Hybrid4 looked like falling foul of legislation designed to promote eco-friendly petrol hybrids against conventionally-powered models, but HM Revenue and Customs has stated that none of Peugeot's forthcoming Hybrid4 cars will incur a 3 per cent diesel surcharge yet will benefit from the 10 per cent threshold for personal Benefit in Kind taxation.

A Peugeot spokesman welcomed the clarification, adding that the 3008 Hybrid4 offered: "Low fuel costs, low emissions, low BIK and, for the company, lower Employer National Insurance contributions, alongside an allowance for

the company to offset 100 per cent of the list price, in the first year, against its taxable profits.

"Let's not forget, in addition, the 3008 Hybrid4 delivers 74mpg, 200bhp, four-wheel drive and electric mode – a truly unique and innovative vehicle."

With CO₂ emissions of just 99g/km, the car is also exempt from road tax and the London congestion charge.

The 3008 hybrid power pack uses a 2.0-litre HDi 163bhp diesel engine to propel the front wheels and a 37bhp electric motor for the rear wheels, effectively creating an all-wheel drive system.

The Hybrid4 system will soon be an option on the Peugeot 508 – the marque's Ford Mondeo rival – and its proposed 'rough'n'tough 508RXH spin-off, giving a wider choice in the hybrid sector, which has been dominated by smaller models and the Lexus premium range of petrol hybrids.



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Dashing new Astra goes after its premium rivals

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WE made a film once about a Vauxhall that deserved to be judged on merit rather than its mainstream badge.

It was the Antara SUV; it sounded like the capital of Turkey and proved to be a capital one itself, being far too pricey; it's one thing to make a mainstream car look like a premium rival, but unwise to price it like one.

But the video theme was sound; by keeping the badge hidden until the end, the viewer was forced to judge the car by its classy looks and upmarket interior.

Vauxhall's latest offering would rate similar treatment, because the new Astra GTC (from £18,495) really deserves judgement on merit.

As the letters imply it's a GT cum coupe to look at and if the mainstream versions in the showrooms now are something to rave about, then look out for the VXR performance flagship due next year.

Of course, it's really a fancy three-door version of the existing Astra five-door and Sports Tourer (estate) models but, remember, in years gone by such a car would have been the cheap and plain Jane of the range.

The current vogue, which Vauxhall helped start with the previous generation Astra Sports Hatch, is to turn the whole thing on its head and make the three-door into a racy little number that will turn heads.

The latest Astra models were already head turners but this new addition is the halo car of the range. Available only in upmarket Sport and SRI trim, it is going head-to-head with other affordable coupes like VW's Scirocco rather than the German marque's three-door version of the Golf.

Vauxhall also fancies a tilt at premium three-doors like the BMW 1-Series and Audi A3 – the GTC certainly has them licked for looks.

VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC: PRICE £21,480



FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£168/year (£265 year one)
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MERIT: Vauxhall's new Astra GTC ticks all the boxes for styling and drive, making it a seriously classy car to look out for

Apart from the cabin, it has been heavily modified from the five-door Astra hatch to the point where Vauxhall actually prefers to call it a standalone model range – the UK is expected to be its biggest market.

Vauxhall/Opel's excellent British-led design team, under Mark Adams, has created a different side profile for the GTC, but still using the sculptured 'blade' theme introduced on the Insignia.

The GTC also has a cleverly pinched window line towards the rear, suggesting a coupe shape, while actually preserving a roof height that enables adults to travel in the back and retain a decent boot area. The car appears to sit wider and lower on the road too, but can it live up to its sporting stance?

No problem. The Astra five-door showed that Vauxhall engineers have created one of the best chassis in its class and the GTC has been tweaked further with front-end details imported from the impressive Insignia VXR sporting

model, largely to cure a tendency on high-powered versions of the previous Astra to fight the driver's input on the steering wheel when under heavy acceleration – classic 'torque steer'.

The rear end is also slightly adapted from the original car and the overall effect is handling that can be relied on even on challenging UK roads and surfaces, without having to endure a bone-jarring ride either, although a FlexRide damping system can be specified for £790, which automatically adapts to the prevailing roads and driving.

The car's impressive steering matches effort to speed accurately, without losing the feedback essential when tackling difficult roads and surfaces.

Our test car, the 180PS (178bhp) 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol version made all the right noises and was also lively enough to prove that the torque steer problem has been cured.

Yes, judge this sporty and classy Vauxhall on merit.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



You're nicked!

FORD'S all-new Focus ST hot hatchback has landed a starring role in new movie The Sweeney.

Flying Squad detectives Jack Regan (Ray Winstone) and George Carter (Ben Drew aka Plan B) will use black Focus STs in their battle against crime.

The car will be premiered to the public by summer – the film follows in September.



New Passat gets tough

VOLKSWAGEN is to follow the route of sister brands Audi and Skoda in producing a rougher and tougher estate model.

The Passat Alltrack arrives in early 2012 and differs from the standard Passat Estate in having 4Motion four-wheel drive and a raised ride height for better off-road use, plus some upper and underbody protection from scrapes.



Skoda's 2011 record showing

BRITAIN'S economy might be facing another recession, but that's not affecting demand for Skoda's no nonsense cars.

The VW-owned Czech brand has broken its record annual registration figure last year – in 11 months.

Skoda UK registered 41,240 cars in 2010 – as of November 28 this year's total was 41,313. The brand expects to smash the 45,000 barrier by the year's end.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRI hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRI 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-2k (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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VAUXHALL

Chevy and Vauxhall team works well, says dealer

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHEVROLET will launch a sharply styled all-new Aveo supermini early next year, significantly strengthening the appeal of the General Motors value brand.

The car fits the new twin grille corporate look better than the current Aveo, which dates back to the former Daewoo Kalos and had the Chevy nose grafted on late in life.

However, there are sure to be deals on that car as it enters its run-out phase ahead of replacement, underlining the American brand's value for money pitch, already shown by the keenly-priced 5-7-seat Captiva SUV, seven-seat Orlando MPV, stylish Cruze family saloon and hatchback and compact Spark city car.

"Unlike some brands that major on value, we don't think Chevrolet cuts corners on interior quality," said Graham Hawkes, new car sales manager for Perrys at Dover.

"Buyers don't feel short-changed when they see the cabins of cars like the Captiva and Orlando – they look like they should cost far more. And the Chevy brand may offer value,



but it's not seen as downmarket."

He also applauded how well the marque fits with Perrys' Vauxhall dealerships in Kent – Broadstairs, Canterbury and another alongside the Chevrolet showroom at Dover:

"They make a pretty good fit, with Vauxhall pitched slightly upmarket from Chevrolet, and having two brands on board means there's usually a lot of new models or facelifts to keep up customer traffic.

"We've got the Aveo coming in early 2012, for instance, but our Vauxhall sites are buzzing now with the arrival of the Vauxhall Astra GTC." (See our GTC road test report this issue).

"We cannot expect the same volume of demand as for the Astra five-door, but the GTC is a real halo car for Vauxhall as a brand – stylish, good to drive and be in, and oozing quality in the fit and finish."



A1 access added to Audi line-up

AUDI has boosted appeal for its A1 small hatchback by announcing a new five-door version priced from £13,980.

It has been dubbed the Sportback, a name already used to denote the five-door version of the bigger A3 family hatchback, and is available to order now with deliveries from next spring.

In the meantime though, the German premium brand has also stepped up the appeal of the existing three-door A1 by launching two striking looking special editions – Black and Contrast – plus a sporting 141bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine option (from £17,945).

As the name suggests, the Contrast brings a visually lowering change in roof colour plus lots of upmarket add-ons to the usual A1 Sport spec at a cost of £1,350 extra. The Black also lives up to its name but gets a raft of luxury extras on top of the flagship S Line spec models upon which it is based – all for a

further £1,100.

Looking ahead to the A1 Sportback derivatives, which cost an additional £560 over equivalent three-door A1s, Audi claims the car will offer full five-seat capability with a slight increase in head and shoulder room.

It will give the A1 a considerable edge over its most obvious rival, the BMW Mini, which does not offer a five-door version in hatchback format.

The Sportback's standard kit includes alloys, split/folding rear seat, front and rear electric windows and air con. Interestingly, there will also be the Mini-style contrasting roof option.

Powertrain options at launch are three petrol turbo engines and one turbodiesel, ranging from 84bhp to 183bhp with all but the latter having their emissions and consumption efficiency enhanced by an engine start-stop system.

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